Developed as a joint educational project by members of the amateur radio business community in cooperation with the American Radio Relay League.

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Archie's® HAM RADIO Adventure

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RIDE THE AIRWAVES TO FUN AND EXCITEMENT WITH ARCHIE AND ALL HIS FRIENDS!

PARENTS' PAGE!

Dear Mom and Dad,

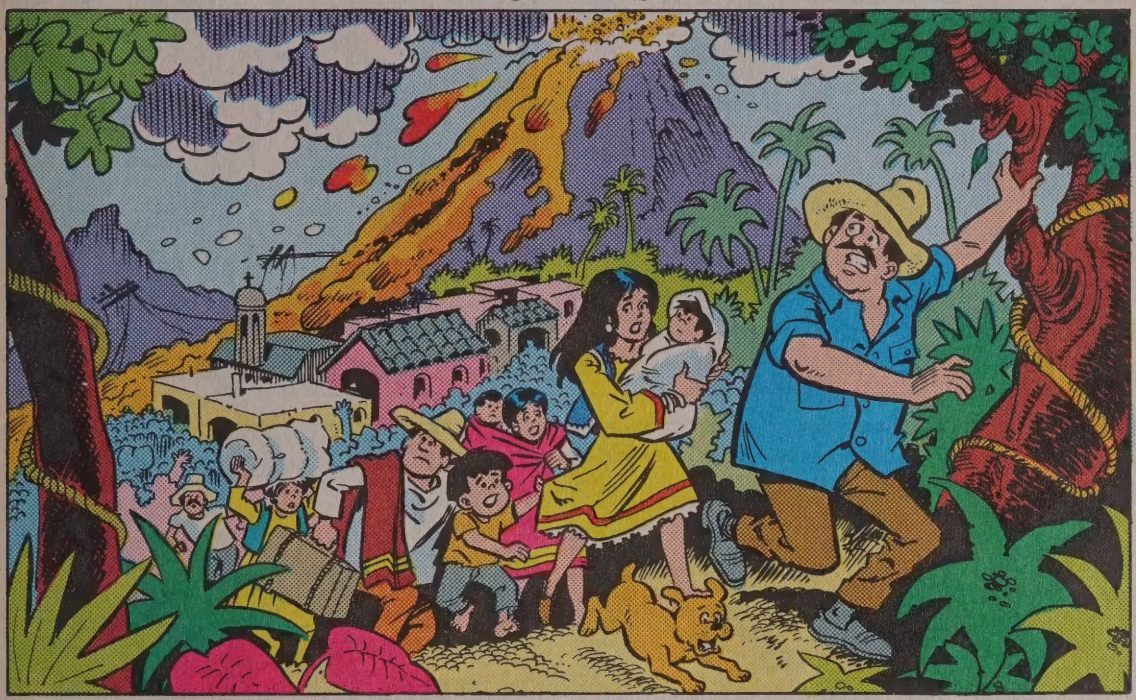
Ham Radio is a doorway to the world! It can help your son or daughter make new friends in faraway places--or right in your hometown. It can also spark an interest in electronics and communications that may lead to a rewarding career. Ham Radio can also help kids get more interested in math (learning electronics formulas), geography (finding on a map the home of someone they contact), even spelling (when Hams use Morse Code instead of voice communications, they spell out their words). Plus, Ham Radio blends naturally with computers, and can be a ticket to success in our high-tech world.

Mainly, though, it's a fun hobby--and kids who get into Ham Radio generally get involved enough that they don't get into other things that can lead to trouble. Getting a Ham license can also help build your child's self-confidence and sense of pride in accomplishment.

Of course, Ham Radio's not just for kids. Adults find plenty of enjoyment in the hobby as well. Your child's teacher should have the name of a local radio club you can contact.

"ARCHIE' S HAM RADIO ADVENTURE" is a joint project of the amateur radio industry and the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national Ham Radio organization. The ARRL, founded in 1914, is a non-profit membership association with about 150,000 members nationwide. Its headquarters, in Newington, CT, also serves as headquarters for the International Amateur Radio Union, an umbrella organization of the 125 national amateur radio societies throughout the world. More information is available from ARRL, 225 Main Street., Newington, CT 06111.

Archie AND HIS FRIENDS IN HAM RADIO ADVENTURE



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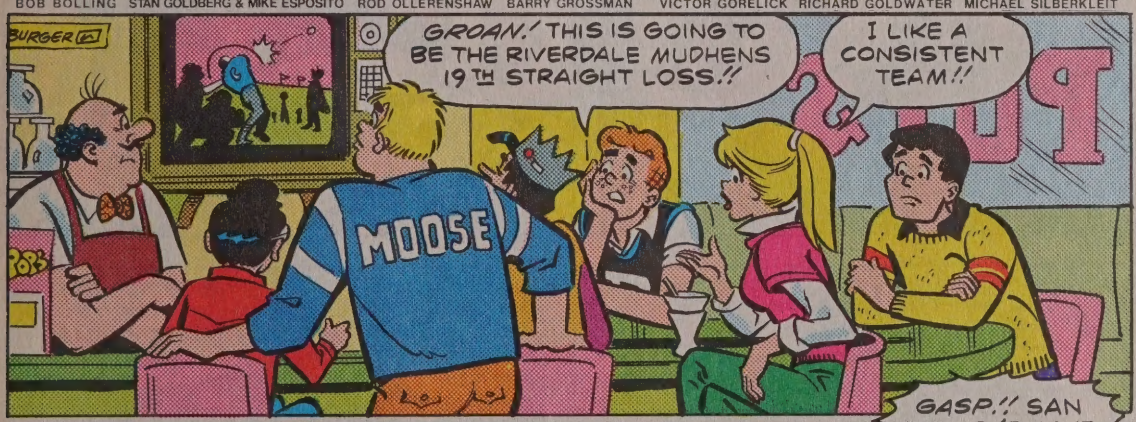

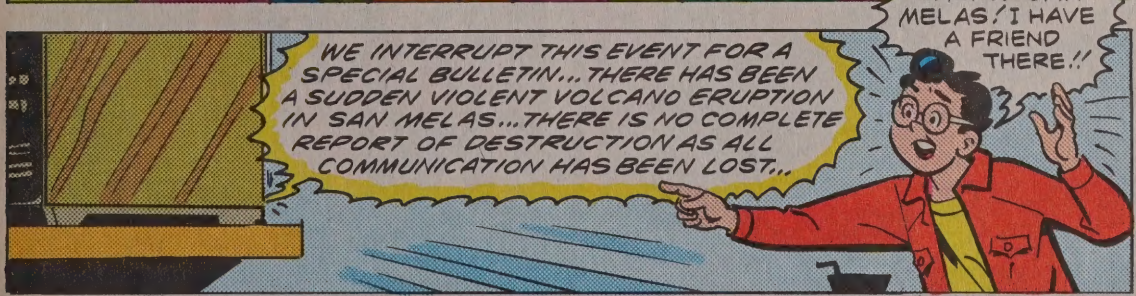

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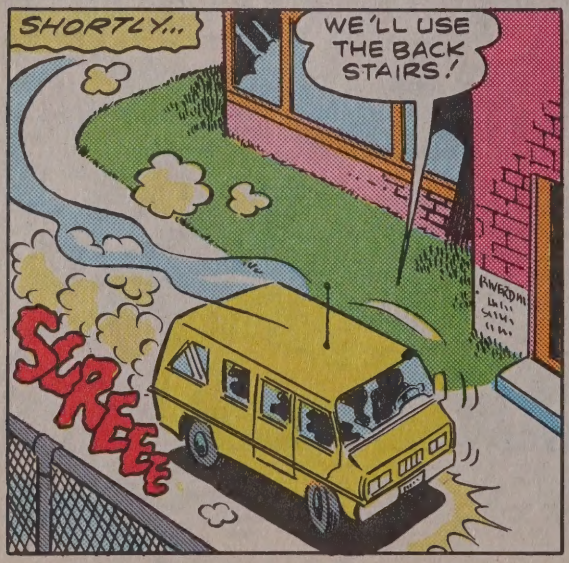
DILTON! SAN MELAS IS WAY DOWN IN CENTRAL AMERICA! ...YOU KNOW SOMEONE THERE?!
YES! HIS NAME'S CARLOS...ONE OF MY HAM RADIO FRIENDS! I'M LEAVING NOW... I WANT TO CALL HIM!

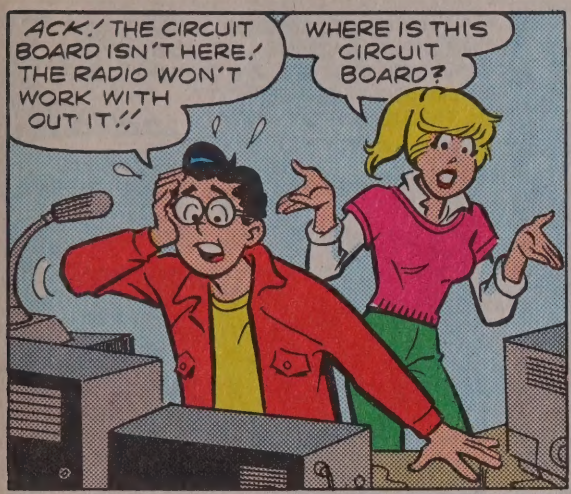
ARE YOU GOING HOME TO CALL CENTRAL AMERICA?!
NO! THE HIGH SCHOOL RADIO CLUB IS CLOSER!

WE WANT TO GO WITH YOU, DILTON!
YEAH!!
MY VAN'S OUTSIDE! LET'S SPLIT!

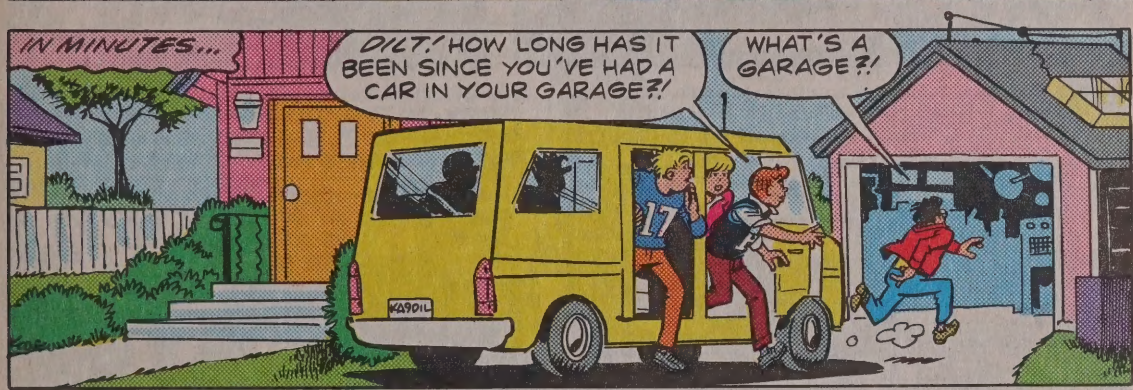
WAIT! I THINK THE MUDHENS ARE GOING TO GET A RUN!!
TERRIFIC! THAT'LL NARROW THE SCORE DOWN TO 22 TO 1!!


SHORTLY...
WE'LL USE THE BACK STAIRS!
SCREEEE

I'M PRESIDENT OF THE RADIO CLUB! THAT'S WHY I HAVE A KEY!
CHEEE! LOOKIT ALL THE FANCY EQUIPMENT!

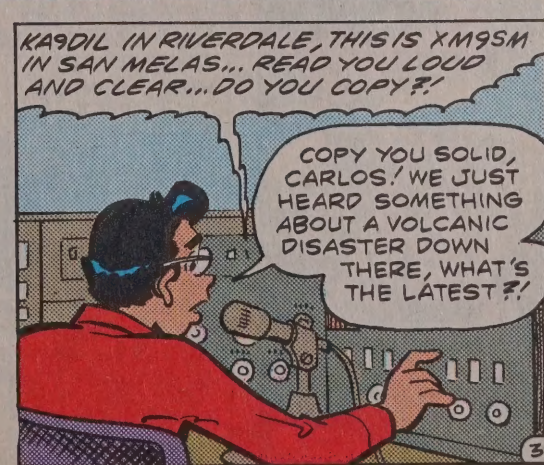

ACK! THE CIRCUIT BOARD ISN'T HERE! THE RADIO WON'T WORK WITH OUT IT!!
WHERE IS THIS CIRCUIT BOARD?

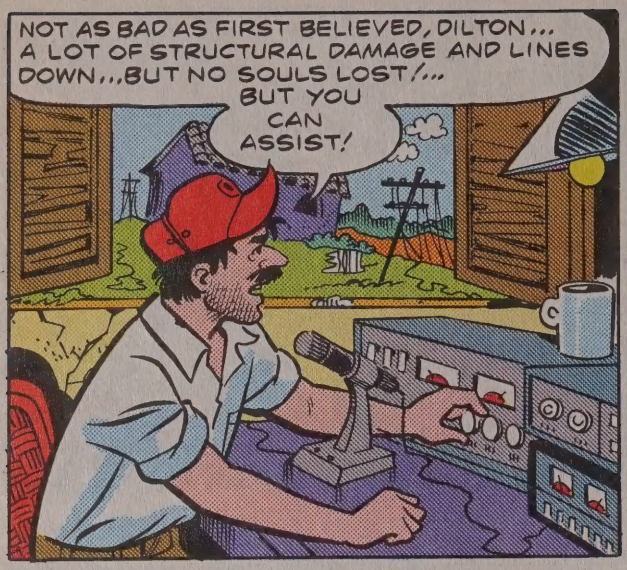
IN MY RADIO SHACK! I TOOK IT HOME TO BUILD IN A COMPUTER CONTROL CIRCUIT! WE'LL HAVE TO TRY CALLING FROM THERE!!
WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?!

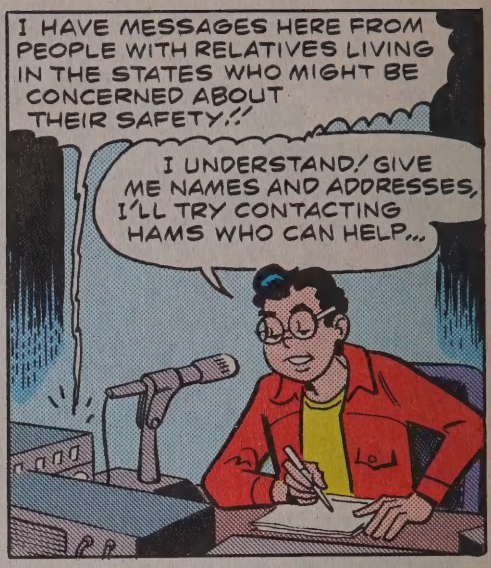

IN MINUTES...
DILT! HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE YOU'VE HAD A CAR IN YOUR GARAGE?!
WHAT'S A GARAGE?!
KA9DIL

OKAY, LET'S FIRE UP MY RIG AND HOPE WE CAN GET THROUGH!!

XM9SM, XM9SM IN SAN MELAS! THIS IS KA9DIL IN RIVERDALE! DO YOU COPY?!

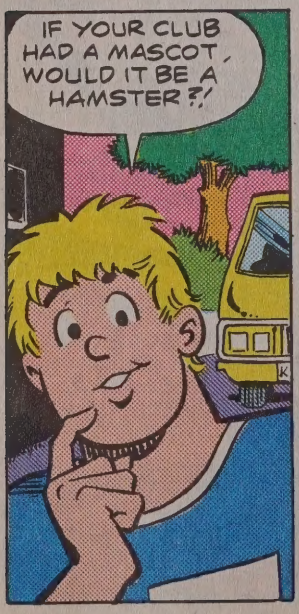

KA9DIL IN RIVERDALE, THIS IS XM9SM IN SAN MELAS... READ YOU LOUD AND CLEAR... DO YOU COPY?!
COPY YOU SOLID, CARLOS! WE JUST HEARD SOMETHING ABOUT A VOLCANIC DISASTER DOWN THERE, WHAT'S THE LATEST?!

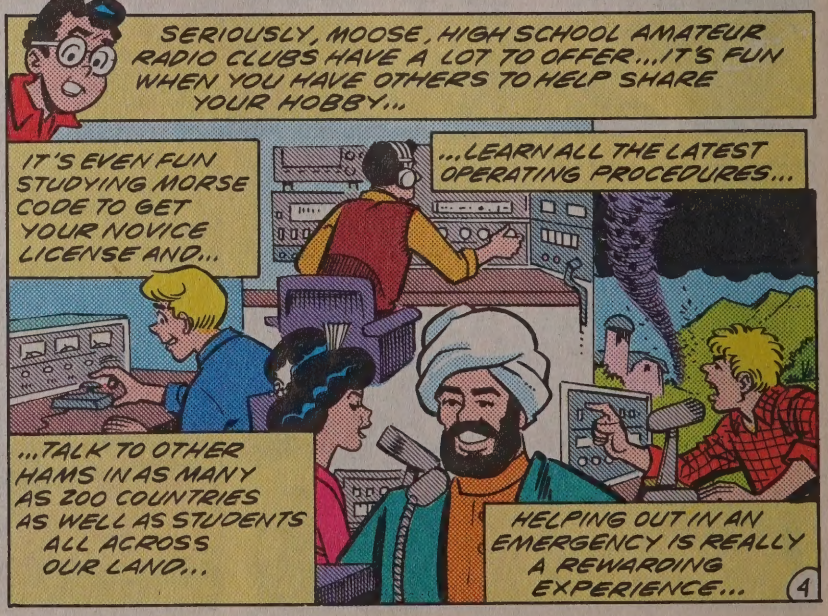

NOT AS BAD AS FIRST BELIEVED, DILTON... A LOT OF STRUCTURAL DAMAGE AND LINES DOWN...BUT NO SOULS LOST!...
BUT YOU CAN ASSIST!

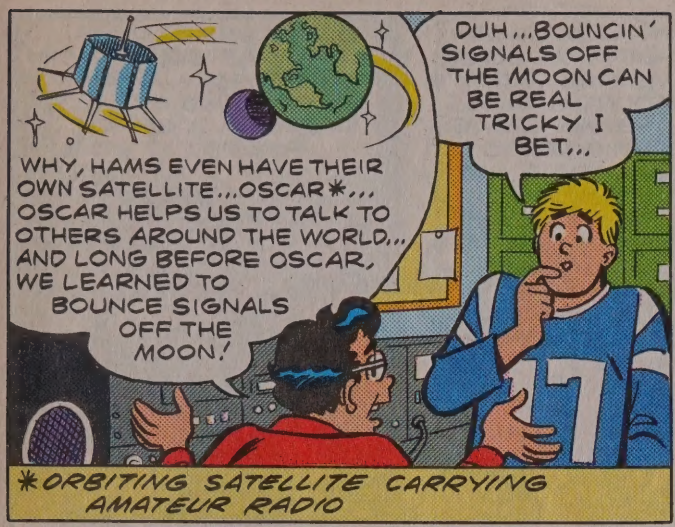

I HAVE MESSAGES HERE FROM PEOPLE WITH RELATIVES LIVING IN THE STATES WHO MIGHT BE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR SAFETY!!
I UNDERSTAND! GIVE ME NAMES AND ADDRESSES, I'LL TRY CONTACTING HAMS WHO CAN HELP...

IN TURN, THOSE HAM OPERATORS WILL CONTACT THOSE CONCERNED BY PHONE! EXCUSE ME WHILE I TRY TO GET THROUGH TO SOME OF 'EM!!

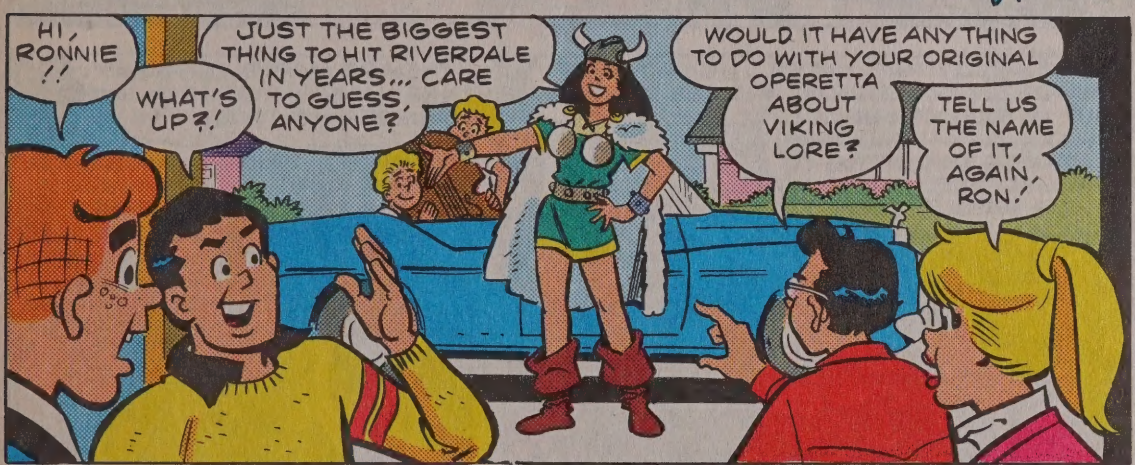
SOON DILTON HAS CONTACTED HAMS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, AND ALL THE MESSAGES ARE ON THEIR WAY...
THAT'S THE LAST ONE!
DUH, DILTON, I WANNA ASK YOU AN IMPORTANT QUESTION ABOUT YOUR RADIO CLUB AT SCHOOL!!

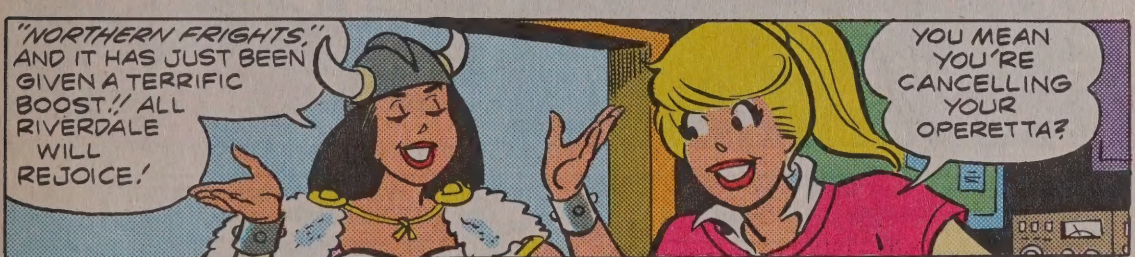

IF YOUR CLUB HAD A MASCOT, WOULD IT BE A HAMSTER?!


SERIOUSLY, MOOSE, HIGH SCHOOL AMATEUR RADIO CLUBS HAVE A LOT TO OFFER...IT'S FUN WHEN YOU HAVE OTHERS TO HELP SHARE YOUR HOBBY...
IT'S EVEN FUN STUDYING MORSE CODE TO GET YOUR NOVICE LICENSE AND...
...LEARN ALL THE LATEST OPERATING PROCEDURES...
...TALK TO OTHER HAMS IN AS MANY AS 200 COUNTRIES AS WELL AS STUDENTS ALL ACROSS OUR LAND...
HELPING OUT IN AN EMERGENCY IS REALLY A REWARDING EXPERIENCE...

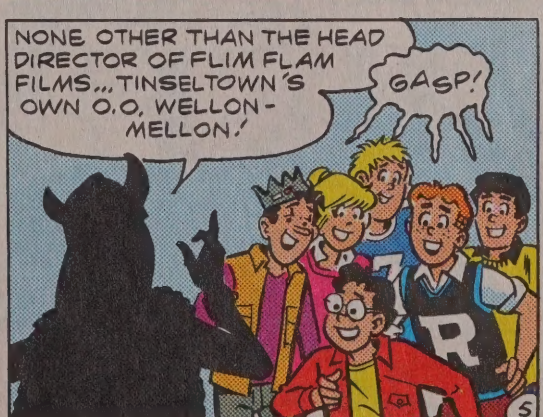

WHY, HAMS EVEN HAVE THEIR OWN SATELLITE...OSCAR*... OSCAR HELPS US TO TALK TO OTHERS AROUND THE WORLD... AND LONG BEFORE OSCAR, WE LEARNED TO BOUNCE SIGNALS OFF THE MOON!
DUH...BOUNCIN' SIGNALS OFF THE MOON CAN BE REAL TRICKY I BET...
*ORBITING SATELLITE CARRYING AMATEUR RADIO

'SPECIALLY WHEN THE MOON IS JUST A LITTLE SLIVER... IT'D BE HARD TO HIT!
MOOSE, I...
HONK!


HI, RONNIE!!
WHAT'S UP?!
JUST THE BIGGEST THING TO HIT RIVERDALE IN YEARS... CARE TO GUESS, ANYONE?
WOULD IT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOUR ORIGINAL OPERETTA ABOUT VIKING LORE?
TELL US THE NAME OF IT, AGAIN, RON!


"NORTHERN FRIGHTS," AND IT HAS JUST BEEN GIVEN A TERRIFIC BOOST!! ALL RIVERDALE WILL REJOICE!
YOU MEAN YOU'RE CANCELLING YOUR OPERETTA?

I MEAN I HAVE JUST ACQUIRED A PROFESSIONAL MOVIE DIRECTOR TO HELP WITH MY PRODUCTION...


NONE OTHER THAN THE HEAD DIRECTOR OF FLIM FLAM FILMS... TINSELTOWN'S OWN O.O. WELLON-MELLON!
GASP!

WOW! O.O. WELLONMELLON! HOW'D YOU SWING THAT, RON?!
DADDY'S INFLUENCE... AND HE HAS PLENTY, YOU KNOW!
OH, WE KNOW !!!

O.O. JUST HAPPENED TO BE VISITING DADDY'S COUNTRY CLUB... THEY MET... ONE THING LED TO ANOTHER AND NOW...

O.O. WELLONMELLON IS OUR HOUSE GUEST FOR THE NEXT WEEK... AND HE'S GETTING MY OPERETTA TOGETHER FOR ME.!!

MORE ABOUT THAT LATER... I CAN'T KEEP THE FEEBLY TWINS, GLEN AND BEN, WAITING OUT IN THE HOT SUN!!
IT TAKES TWO LITTLE FEEBLYS TO PLAY ONE BIG BASS!!

THEY'RE MARVELOUS IN MY ARRANGEMENT OF "BIG BLUBBER MELTDOWN"!!
SOUNDS LIKE A WHALE OF A NUMBER!!

NOW, I'LL NEED THE REST OF YOU FOR A VIKING HORDE THAT RAIDS A GARAGE SALE IN GREEN-LAND!!
...ER... NOT ME, RON, I GET STAGE FRIGHT!
ME, TOO!!

WELL, I KNOW I CAN COUNT ON THE REST OF YOU!!
SURE!
WHY NOT?!
IT'S A GOOD CHANCE TO MEET O.O. WELLON-MELLON!!
HEY!

O.O. WELLONMELLON!... HOW COULD I FORGET W6BLT?!
"W6BLT," YOU SAY?

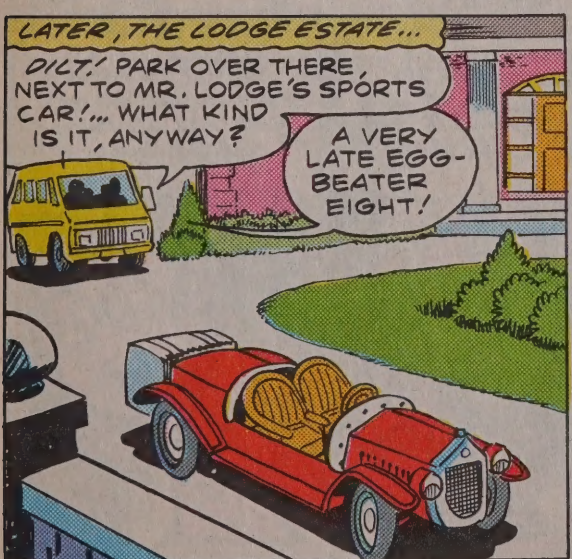
SURE! HE'S A HAM RADIO OPERATOR, TOO! LOOK! I HAVE A QSL CARD RIGHT HERE ON HIM!!
W6BLT

SOME INFO AND HIS PHOTO, SEE?!
THAT'S O.O. ALL RIGHT! ...AND I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO REMIND YOU, DILTON THAT...
W6BLT

DADDY HAS BEEN A HAM RADIO OPERATOR FOR YEARS... HE'S ALWAYS CHATTING WITH SOME KING OR PRIME MINISTER OR...

OKAY! WE'RE REHEARSING IN MY SOUTH GYM NEXT TO VELVET RIVER... HOP IN... WE MUSTN'T KEEP THE FAMOUS DIRECTOR WAITING!

RON, WOULD IT BE OKAY IF ARCHIE AND I CAME BY DURING A BREAK IN REHEARSAL SO I COULD HAVE A CHAT WITH O.O. ABOUT HAM RADIO?!
OH, I SUPPOSE SO!


LATER, THE LODGE ESTATE...
DILT! PARK OVER THERE, NEXT TO MR. LODGE'S SPORTS CAR!... WHAT KIND IS IT, ANYWAY?
A VERY LATE EGG-BEATER EIGHT!

THE GYM IS THIS WAY... DOWN BY THE RIVER!
NOW I SEE IT!!
KA9

RON SURE HAS A FLAIR FOR THE DRAMATIC!
THERE'S O.O. WELLON-MELLON!
V
ALL RIGHT, CAST, TAKE FIVE WHILE I TAKE AN ASPIRIN!

HELLO, W6BLT, I'M KA9DIL! HOW WAS YOUR LATEST DX-PEDITION*?!
IT'S ALMOST COMPLETELY HEALED! BUT I STILL HAVE A HEADACHE!
*DX PEDITION: A TRIP TO OPERATE RADIO FROM A REMOTE FARAWAY PLACE.

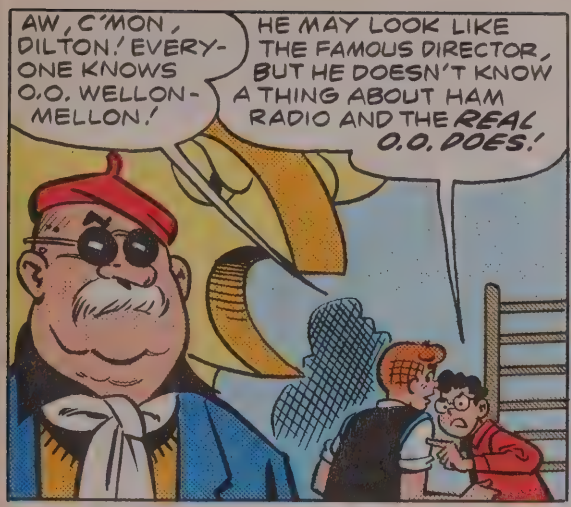
UHHH... PERHAPS YOU CAN HELP ME... I WAS WONDERING HOW YOU GOT YOUR QUAD ANTENNA TO WORK ON FOUR BANDS?
ER... YOU HAVE TO FLAMMERIZE THE PROXIMITY INDICATOR!

BUT WHAT ABOUT USING MY COMPUTER FOR ANTENNA CONTROL?!
IN THAT CASE, CAUTERIZE YOUR MAIN TERMINATOR! I HAVE... ER... SCRIPT CHANGES TO ATTEND TO! SEE YA!

SSST!! ARCHIE! YOU'RE NOT GONNA BELIEVE THIS!
SOME-THING ABOUT O.O. WELLON-MELLON?

THAT'S JUST IT! HE'S NOT O.O. WELLONMELLON! HE'S AN IMPOSTOR! HE'S GOT TO BE!!

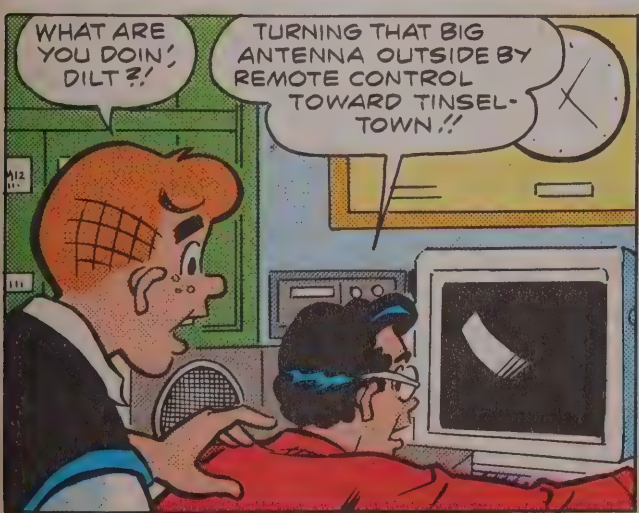
I WAS TRYING TO TALK A LITTLE ABOUT HAM RADIO WITH HIM AND GOT RIDICULOUS REPLIES!


AW, C'MON, DILTON! EVERYONE KNOWS O.O. WELLON-MELLON!
HE MAY LOOK LIKE THE FAMOUS DIRECTOR, BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW A THING ABOUT HAM RADIO AND THE REAL O.O. DOES!

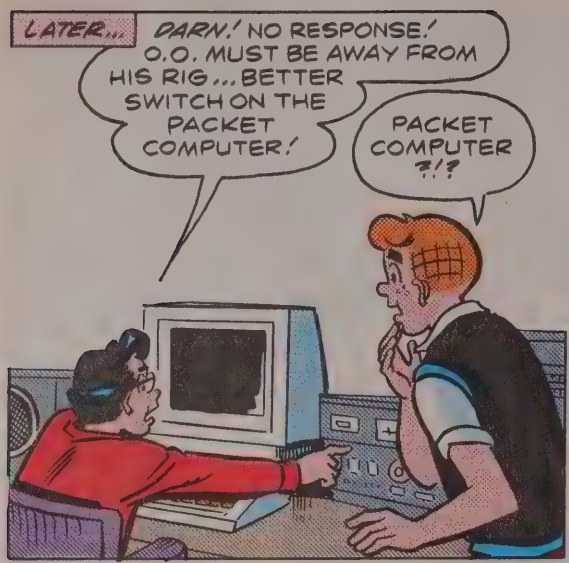
I'M GOING TO ASK RON IF I MAY USE HER DAD'S HAM RADIO... I WON'T TELL HER WHY THOUGH!
OH, YEAH! MR. LODGE IS AWAY IN HIS HELICOPTER INSPECTING SOME OF HIS OFF SHORE OIL RIGS... THERE'S BEEN A MINOR, UNDERSEA EARTHQUAKE OUT THERE!!

WELL ?!!
SHE SAID "OKAY" AND THAT SMITHERS WOULD LET US IN!

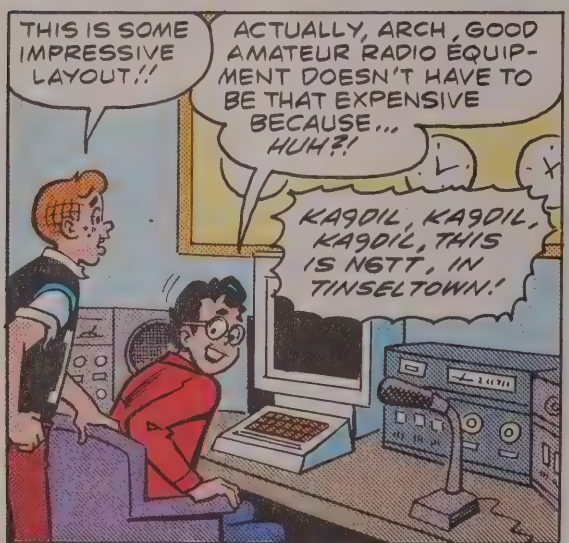
IN MINUTES...
YES! I'M AWARE THAT HAMS ARE MOST GENEROUS IN MAKING THEIR EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE TO ONE ANOTHER !!!
AND THIS RADIO SHACK HAS ALL THE LATEST!!

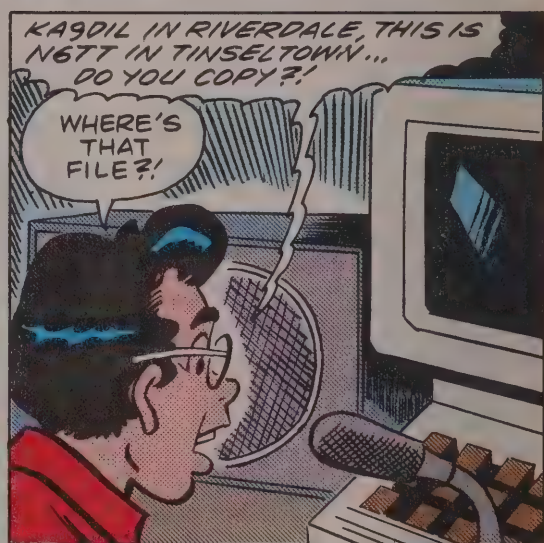

WHAT ARE YOU DOIN', DILT ?!
TURNING THAT BIG ANTENNA OUTSIDE BY REMOTE CONTROL TOWARD TINSEL-TOWN!!

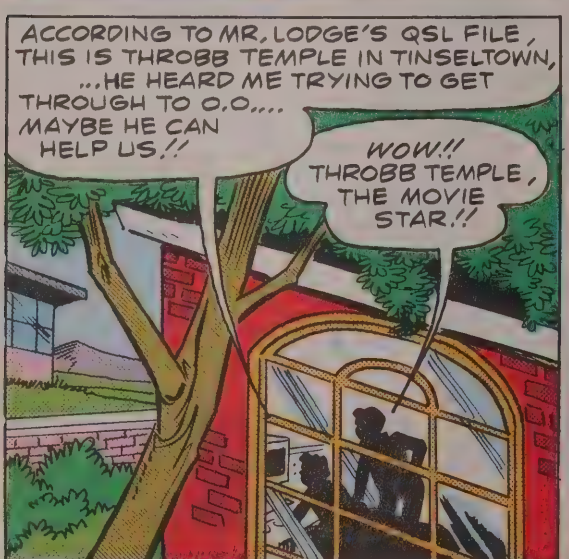
W6BLT, W6BLT, W6BLT IN TINSELTOWN... HERE IS KA9DIL, KA9DIL, KA9DIL! DO YOU COPY ?!

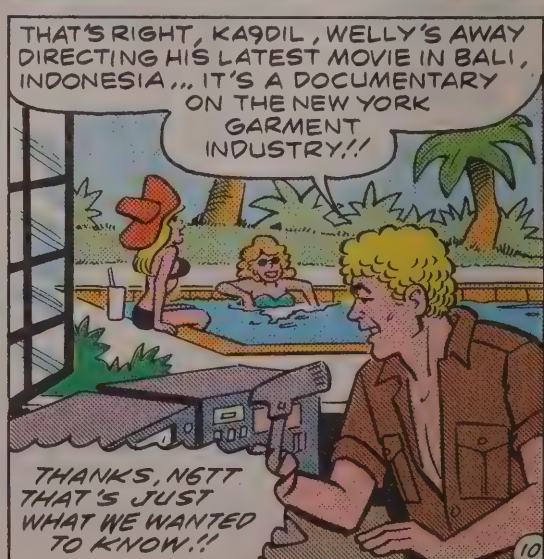

LATER...
DARN! NO RESPONSE! O.O. MUST BE AWAY FROM HIS RIG... BETTER SWITCH ON THE PACKET COMPUTER!
PACKET COMPUTER ?!?

...HERE... I CAN SEND A MESSAGE BY RADIO FROM MR. LODGE'S COMPUTER TO HIS COMPUTER! HE CAN PICK UP THE MESSAGE WHEN HE GETS HOME!!
R


THIS IS SOME IMPRESSIVE LAYOUT!!
ACTUALLY, ARCH, GOOD AMATEUR RADIO EQUIPMENT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THAT EXPENSIVE BECAUSE... HUH?!
KA9DIL, KA9DIL, KA9DIL, THIS IS N6TT, IN TINSELTOWN!


KA9DIL IN RIVERDALE, THIS IS N6TT IN TINSELTOWN... DO YOU COPY?!
WHERE'S THAT FILE?!


ACCORDING TO MR. LODGE'S QSL FILE, THIS IS THROBB TEMPLE IN TINSELTOWN, ...HE HEARD ME TRYING TO GET THROUGH TO O.O.... MAYBE HE CAN HELP US!!
WOW!! THROBB TEMPLE, THE MOVIE STAR!!


THAT'S RIGHT, KA9DIL, WELLY'S AWAY DIRECTING HIS LATEST MOVIE IN BALI, INDONESIA... IT'S A DOCUMENTARY ON THE NEW YORK GARMENT INDUSTRY!!
THANKS, N6TT THAT'S JUST WHAT WE WANTED TO KNOW!!

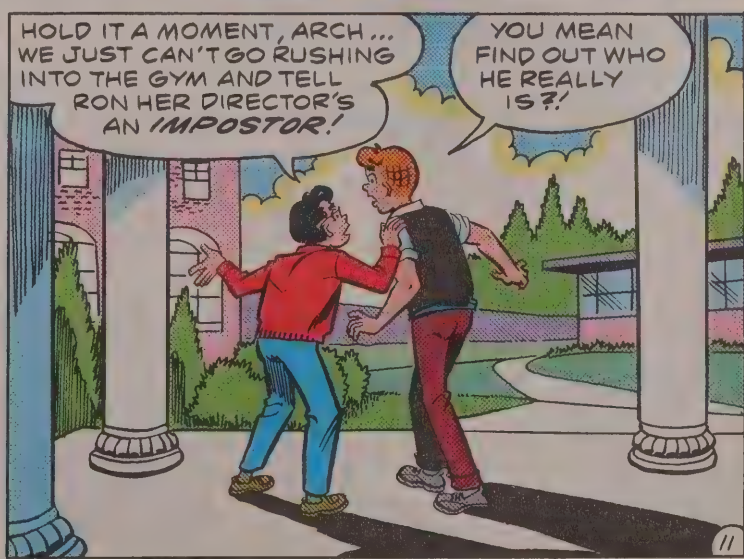
YOU'LL LOVE ME IN MY LATEST PICTURE...I CATCH A RUNAWAY ROCKET IN MY TEETH.!!
NOW THERE'S A REAL HAM.!
KA9DIL, CLEAR!

SUSPICIONS CONFIRMED, ARCH... WHOEVER'S DOWN AT THE GYM DIRECTING RONNIE'S OPERETTA ISN'T O.O. WELLONMELLON!
RIGHT ON, DILT, BUT...

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
I-I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO DO, ARCH!
I THOUGHT THOSE TWO WERE UP TO SOMETHING!

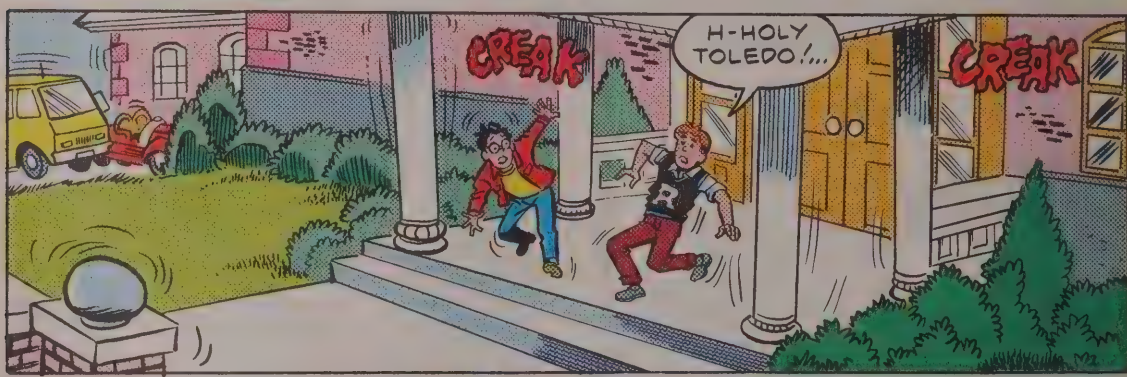
WELL, I SURE KNOW WHAT TO DO... AND THAT'S BLOW THE SAFE IN LODGE'S DEN AND HELP MYSELF TO A FEW BAUBLES!

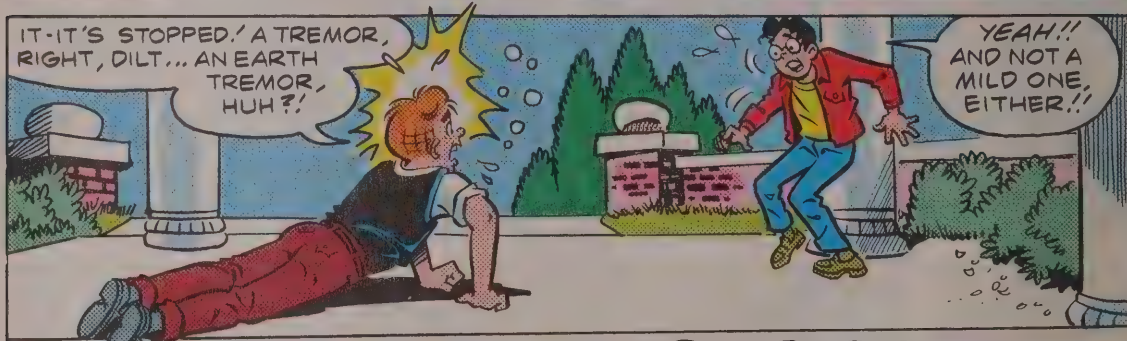
AND THE TIME IS NOW!!


HOLD IT A MOMENT, ARCH... WE JUST CAN'T GO RUSHING INTO THE GYM AND TELL RON HER DIRECTOR'S AN IMPOSTOR!
YOU MEAN FIND OUT WHO HE REALLY IS?!

EXACTLY! AND IF WE CAN UNMASK THIS IMPOSTOR, THE RESULTS COULD BE EARTH--

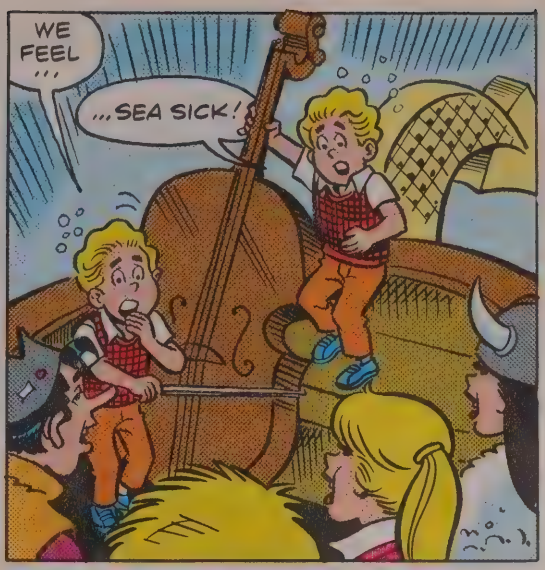
...SHAKING!
R

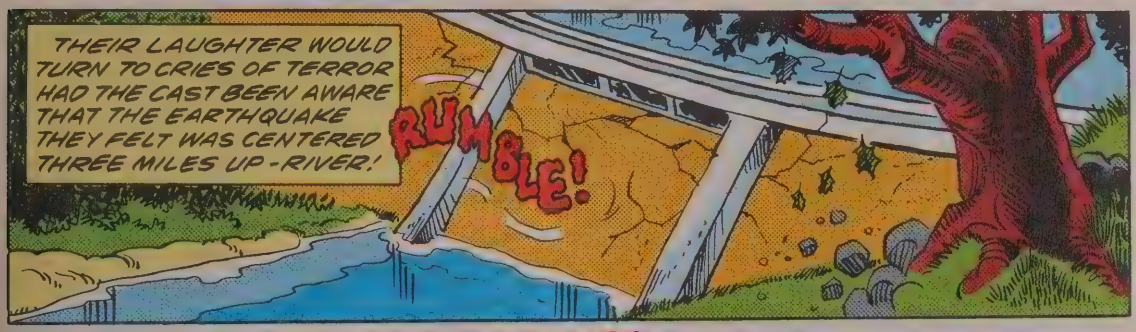

CREAK
H-HOLY TOLEDO!...
CREAK

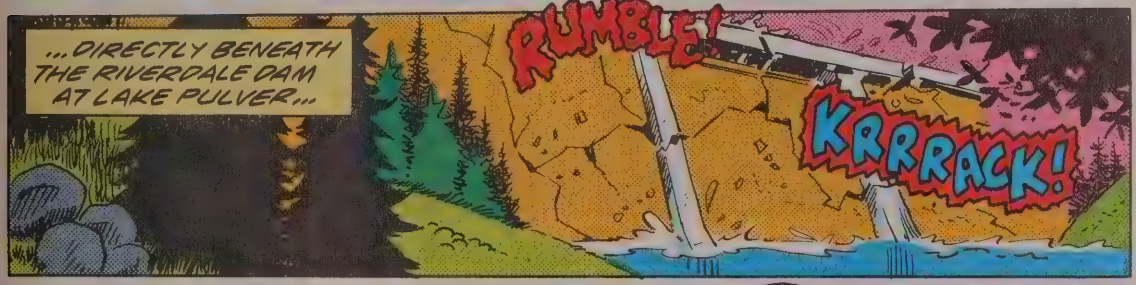

IT-IT'S STOPPED! A TREMOR, RIGHT, DILT... AN EARTH TREMOR, HUH?!
YEAH!! AND NOT A MILD ONE, EITHER!!

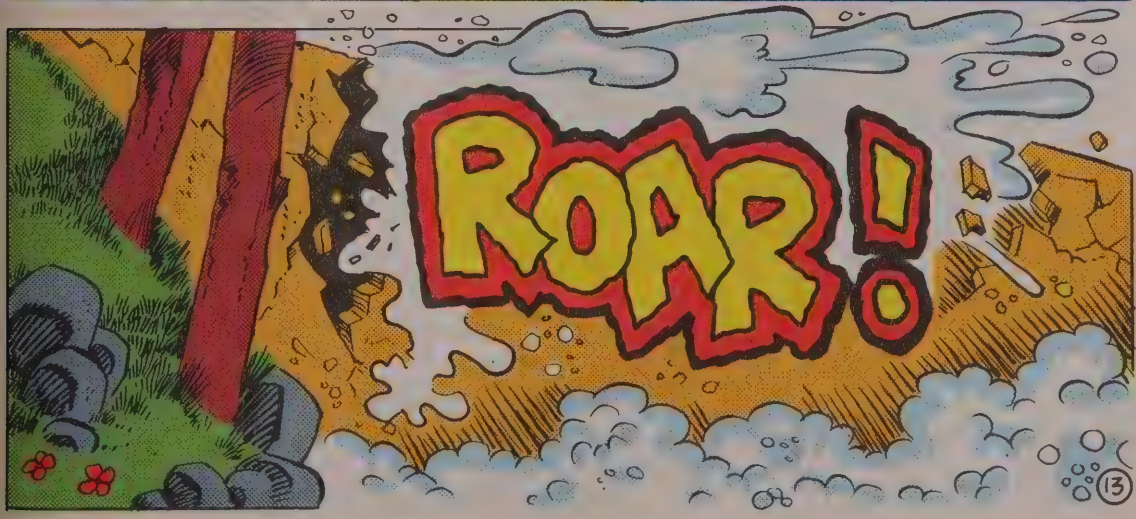
DOWN AT THE GYM... EVERYONE IS ABOARD THE VIKING RAIDER REHEARSING THE DISCOVERY OF THE YUCCA SALT FLATS...
OOOOOOOO!!
V

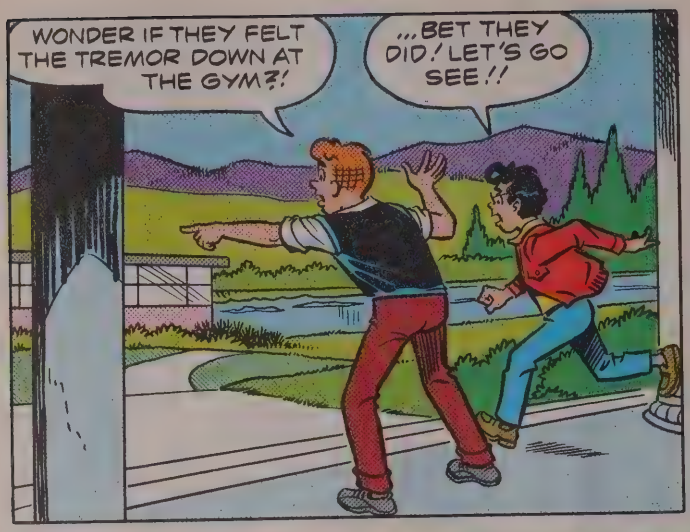
WOW! SOME TERRIFIC TREMOR !!!
IT SURE SHIVERED OUR TIMBERS!
ANYONE OVER-BOARD?


WE FEEL ...
...SEA SICK!

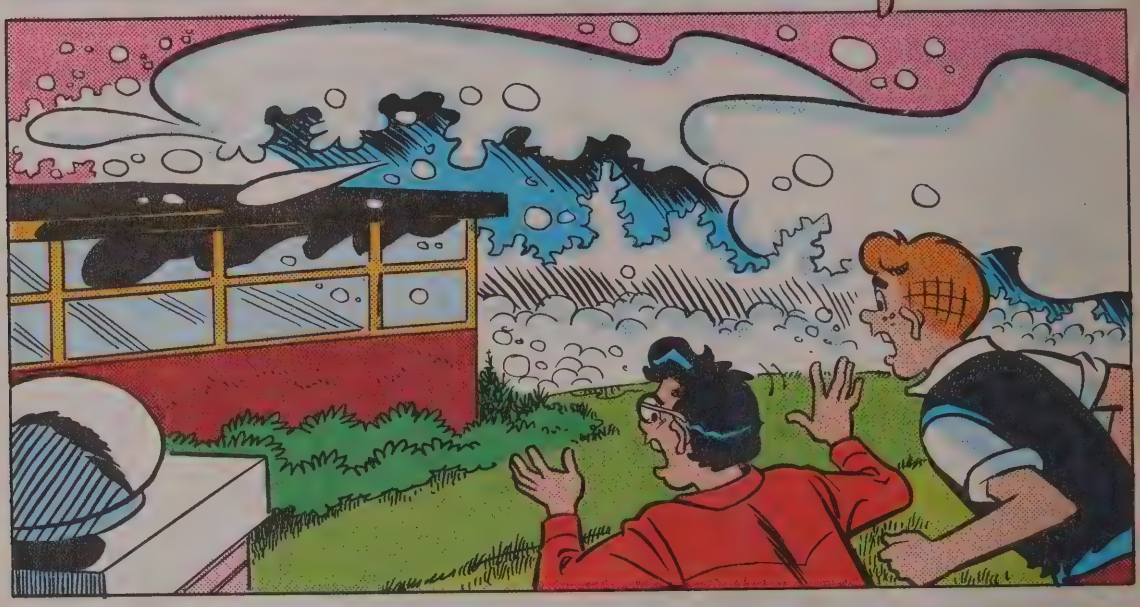

THEIR LAUGHTER WOULD TURN TO CRIES OF TERROR HAD THE CAST BEEN AWARE THAT THE EARTHQUAKE THEY FELT WAS CENTERED THREE MILES UP-RIVER!
RUMBLE!

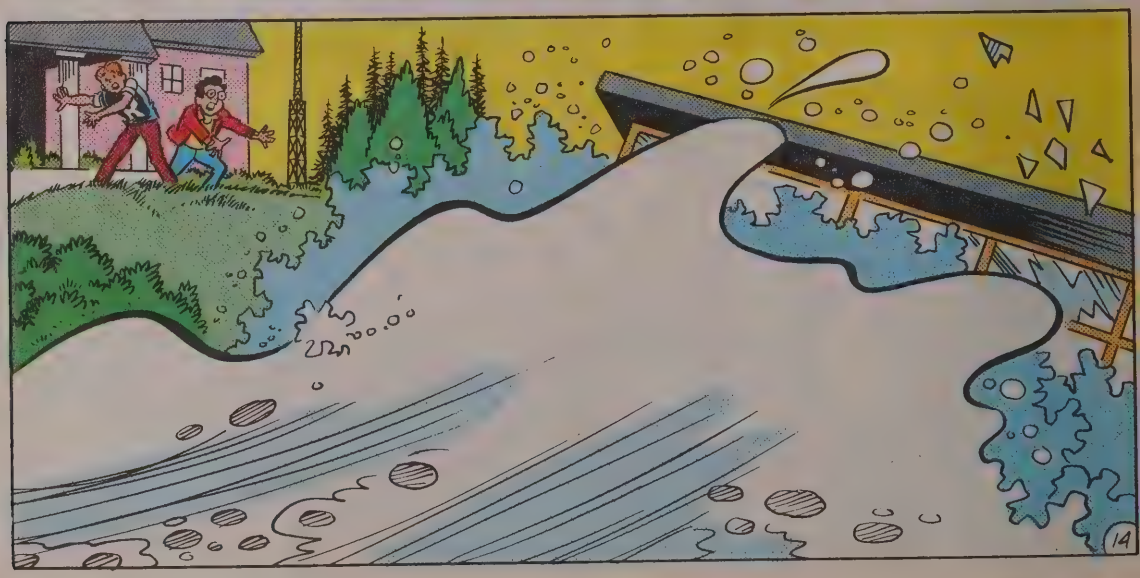

...DIRECTLY BENEATH THE RIVERDALE DAM AT LAKE PULVER...
RUMBLE!
KRRRACK!

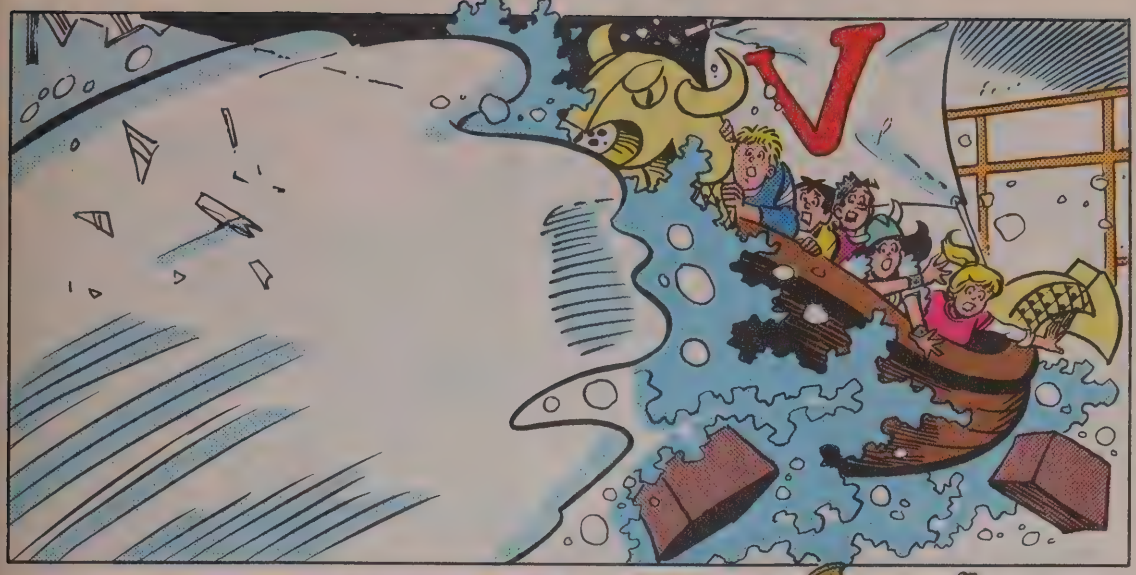

ROAR!

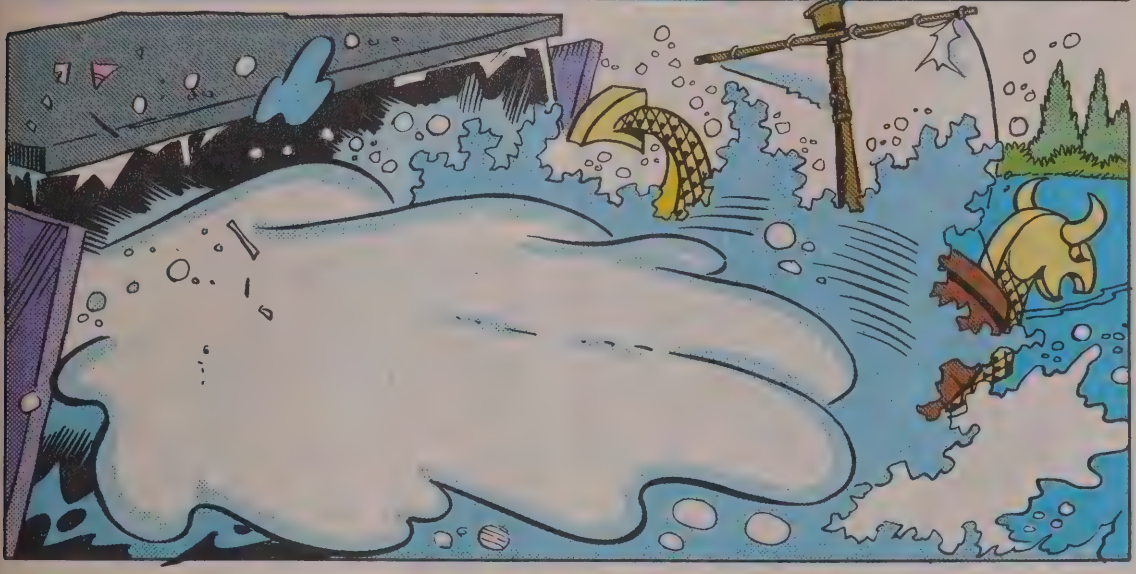

WONDER IF THEY FELT THE TREMOR DOWN AT THE GYM?!
...BET THEY DID! LET'S GO SEE!!

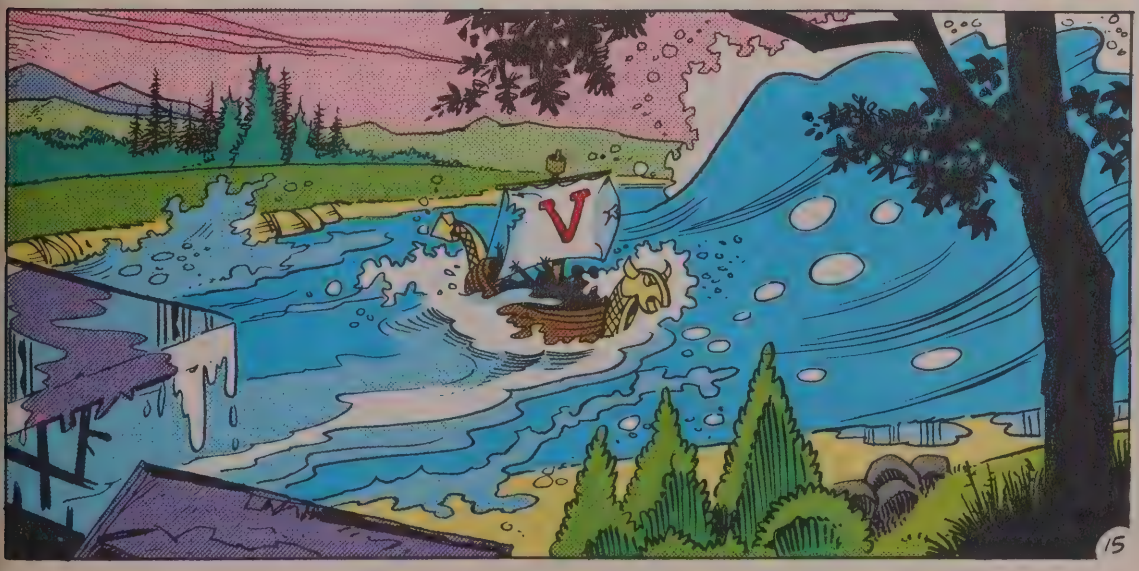
ACK! DILT! LOOK AT VELVET RIVER!!

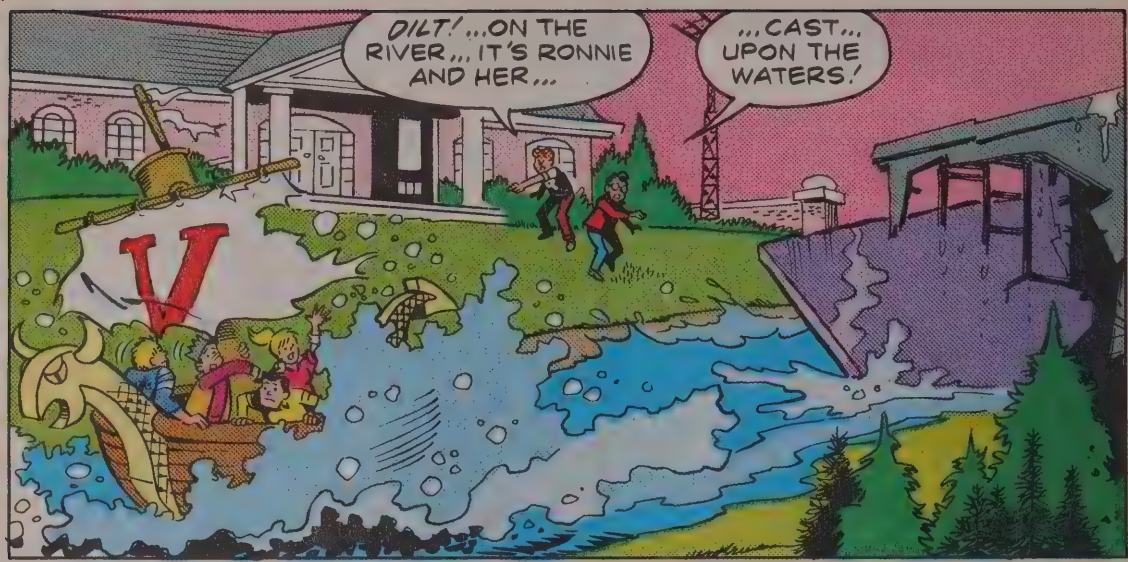





V



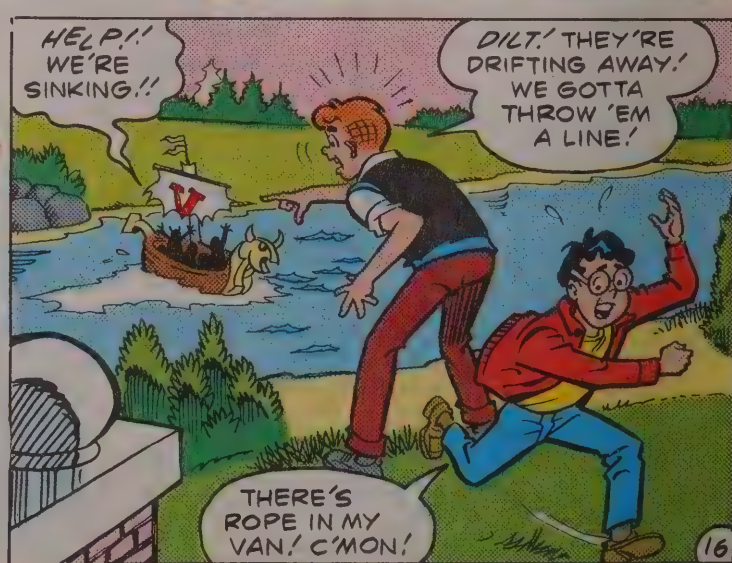

V


DILT! ...ON THE RIVER... IT'S RONNIE AND HER...
...CAST... UPON THE WATERS!

ARCHIE! DILTON! DO SOME-THING!!
STAY CALM!!... BETTY... THIS IS A WELL-BUILT BOAT!!

IT WAS A PARADE FLOAT IN LAST YEAR'S BANANA FESTIVAL! WE'RE UNSINKABLE!!
DUH! A FLOATIN' FLOAT!
MOOSE

SNAP!
KERRUNCH!
WAK!


HELP!! WE'RE SINKING!!
DILT! THEY'RE DRIFTING AWAY! WE GOTTA THROW 'EM A LINE!
THERE'S ROPE IN MY VAN! C'MON!

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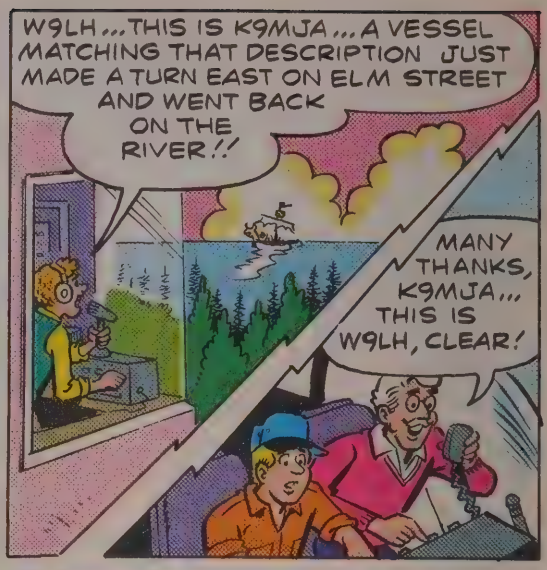
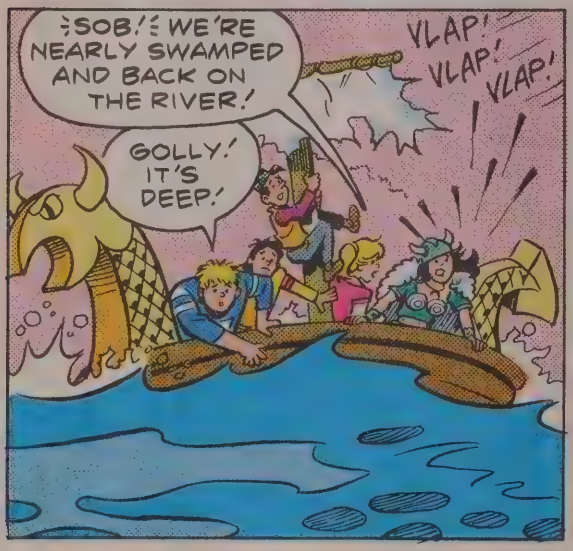
WE'LL FOLLOW 'EM IN THE VAN ALONG THE RIVER BANK, AND...
HUH?!
VLAP!
VLAP!
VLAP!
VLAP!
VLAP!
VLAP!
IT'S MR. LODGE WITH HIS CHIEF ENGINEER RETURNING FROM THEIR INSPECTION TOUR!!
I'LL BET HE HAS SOME HAM RADIO EQUIPMENT ON BOARD!!
I'M GONNA TRY CONTACTING HIM WITH MY HAND HELD UNIT...
W9LH, W9LH, THIS IS KA9DIL PORTABLE IN THE VAN!!
I READ YOU, DILTON... AND I CAN SEE VERONICA AND THE OTHERS ON THAT SINKING BOAT!!
I'VE ALREADY NOTIFIED THE RIVERDALE EMERGENCY NETWORK... BETTER CHECK IN WITH YOUR CALL SIGN AND LOCATION...
HOSPITAL
RED CROSS EMERGENCY CENTER
AMATEUR RADIO
P.D.

BLAST THOSE TREES DOWN THERE! I'VE LOST SIGHT OF THE BOAT!! THIS IS W9LH TRYING TO LOCATE A VIKING RAIDER ABOUT TO FOUNDER WITH ALL HANDS!

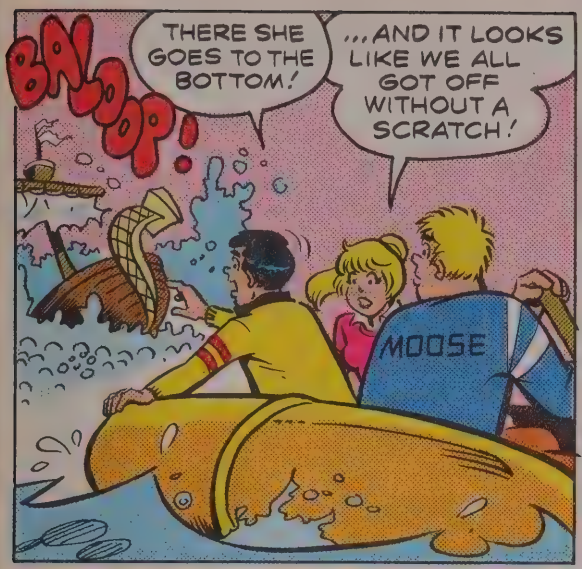

W9LH...THIS IS K9MJA...A VESSEL MATCHING THAT DESCRIPTION JUST MADE A TURN EAST ON ELM STREET AND WENT BACK ON THE RIVER!!
MANY THANKS, K9MJA... THIS IS W9LH, CLEAR!

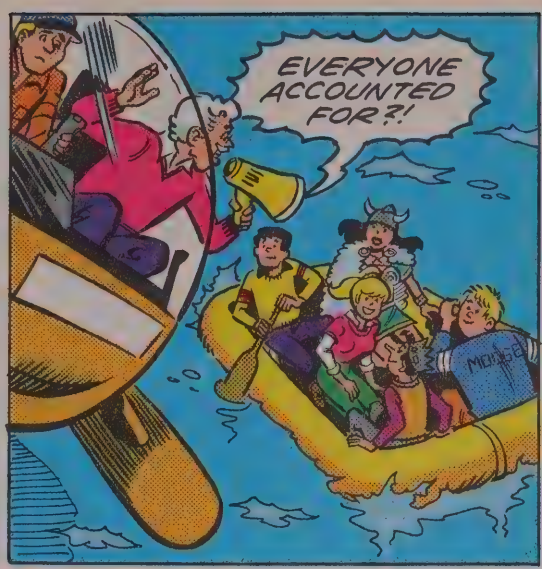

SOB! WE'RE NEARLY SWAMPED AND BACK ON THE RIVER!
GOLLY! IT'S DEEP!
VLAP! VLAP! VLAP!

STANDBY! WE'RE DROPPING A RAFT!
DADDY!

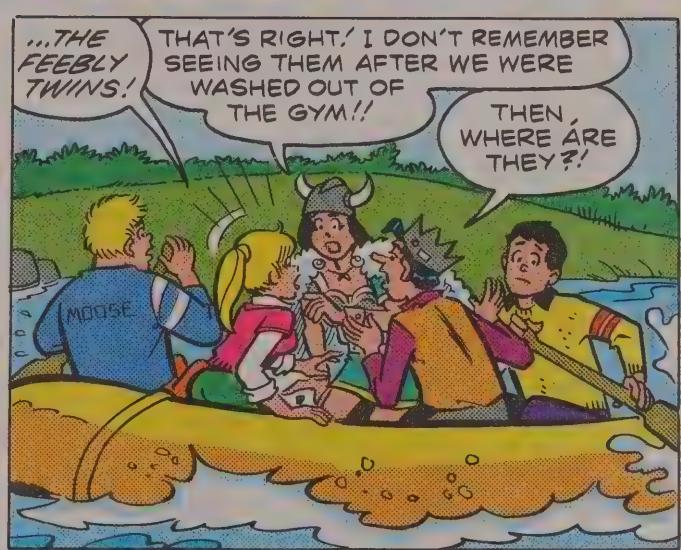
THERE GOES THE RAFT!!
BECAUSE OF ALL MY OCEAN FLIGHTS, I ALWAYS STOW ONE ON BOARD IN CASE OF TROUBLE!

GOOD DROP, MIKE! THE RAFT'S INFLATED AND DRIFTING RIGHT TO THEM!


BALOOP!
THERE SHE GOES TO THE BOTTOM!
...AND IT LOOKS LIKE WE ALL GOT OFF WITHOUT A SCRATCH!
MOOSE

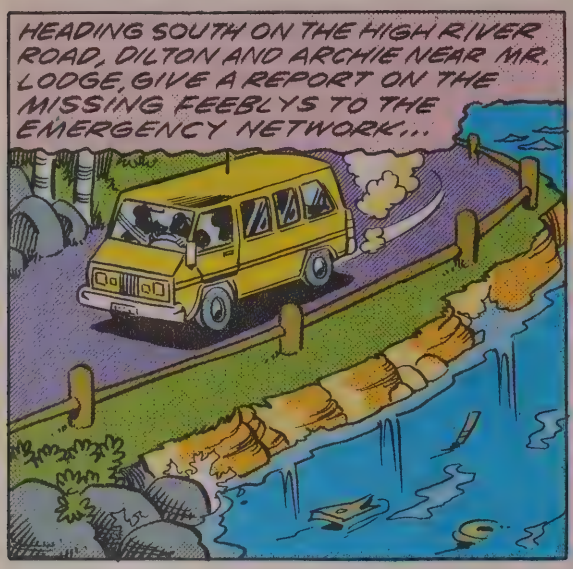

EVERYONE ACCOUNTED FOR?!

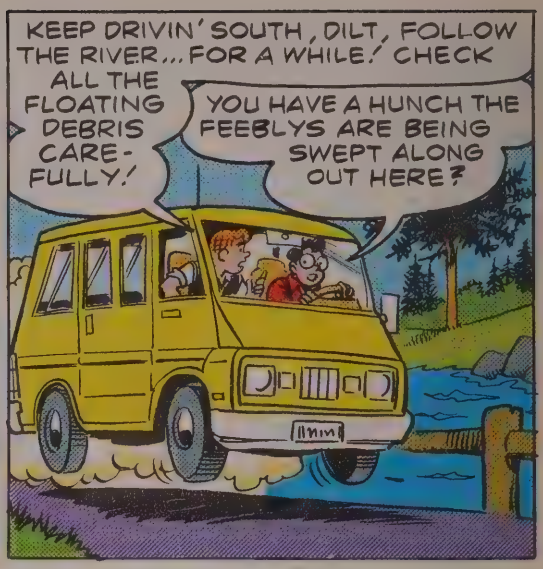
THEY SEE MY "THUMBS UP" SIGN!
:GASP!: RON! SOMEONE IS MISSING!!

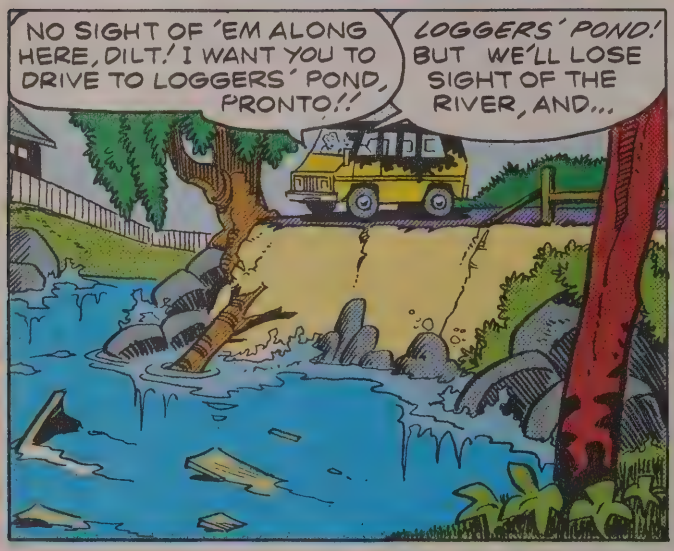

...THE FEEBLY TWINS!
THAT'S RIGHT! I DON'T REMEMBER SEEING THEM AFTER WE WERE WASHED OUT OF THE GYM!!
THEN, WHERE ARE THEY?!
MOOSE

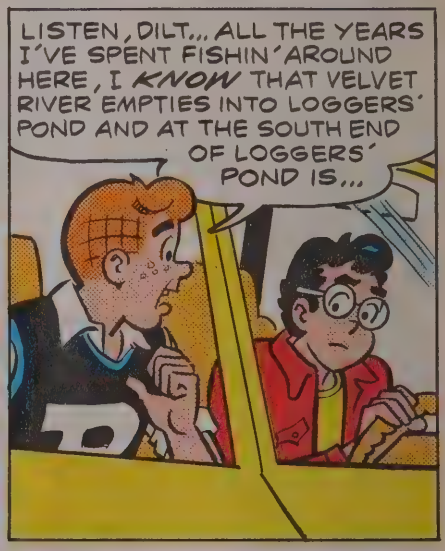
GLEN! WHERE ARE WE?!
I DON'T KNOW, BEN!!

VERONICA'S PRETENDING TO PLAY A BASS FIDDLE... AN HOLDING UP TWO FINGERS... WHAT'S SHE TRYING TO SAY?!
THE FEEBLY TWINS ARE LOST!!


HEADING SOUTH ON THE HIGH RIVER ROAD, DILTON AND ARCHIE NEAR MR. LODGE, GIVE A REPORT ON THE MISSING FEEBLYS TO THE EMERGENCY NETWORK...


KEEP DRIVIN' SOUTH, DILT, FOLLOW THE RIVER... FOR A WHILE! CHECK ALL THE FLOATING DEBRIS CARE-FULLY!
YOU HAVE A HUNCH THE FEEBLYS ARE BEING SWEPT ALONG OUT HERE?

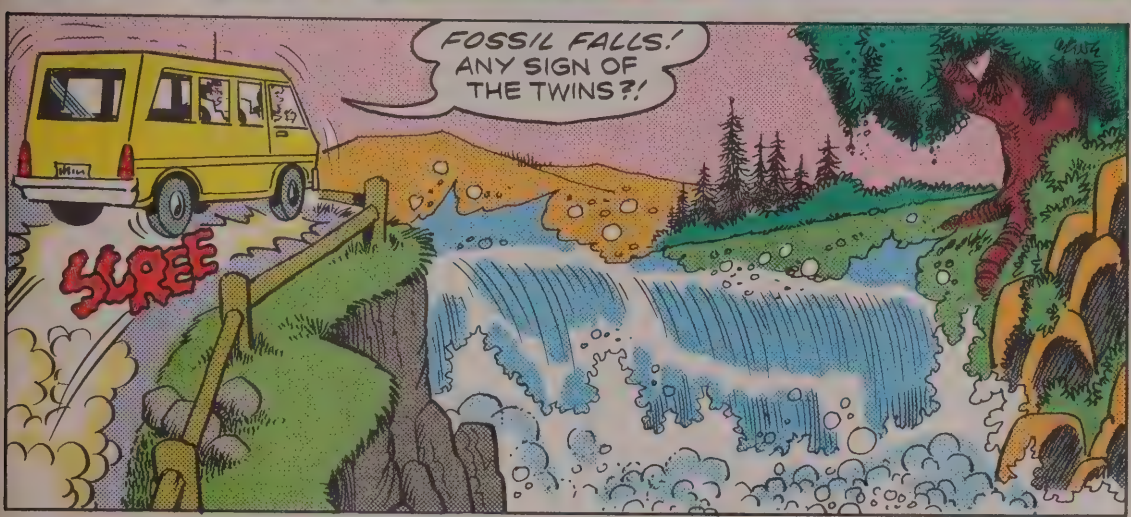

NO SIGHT OF 'EM ALONG HERE, DILT! I WANT YOU TO DRIVE TO LOGGERS' POND, PRONTO!!
LOGGERS' POND! BUT WE'LL LOSE SIGHT OF THE RIVER, AND...


LISTEN, DILT... ALL THE YEARS I'VE SPENT FISHIN' AROUND HERE, I KNOW THAT VELVET RIVER EMPTIES INTO LOGGERS' POND AND AT THE SOUTH END OF LOGGERS' POND IS...

...FOSSIL FALLS! GET MOVIN'! I'LL SHOW YOU A SHORT CUT!!
...ULP! I GET THE MESS-AGE!

KARDIL
ROAR!

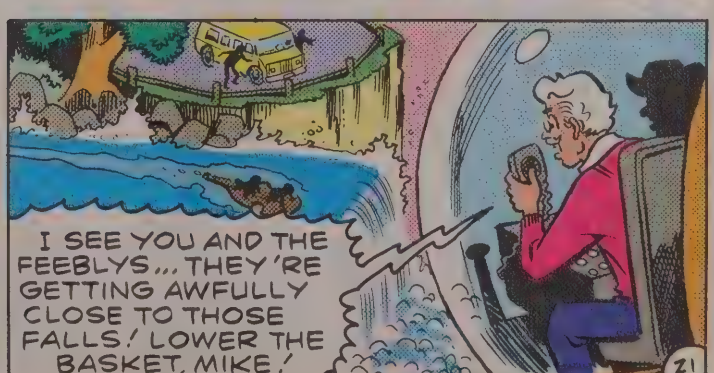
SOON...
OKAY! THERE'S SINGING ROCKS!... TAKE THAT PATH ON THE LEFT!

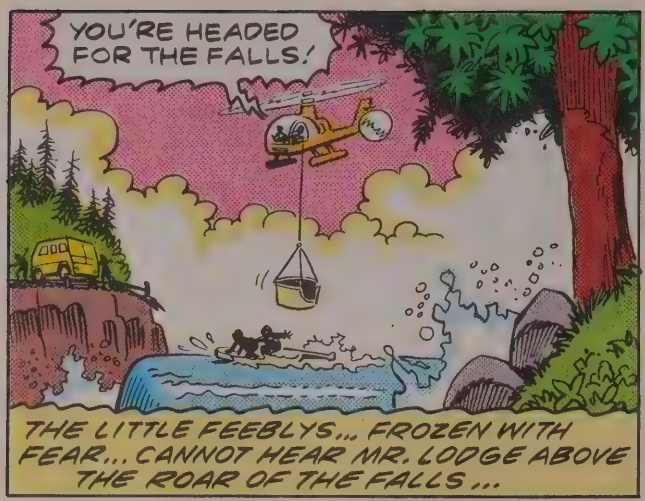

FOSSIL FALLS! ANY SIGN OF THE TWINS?!
SLREE

OUT THERE, ARCH! ON THEIR BASS!
:GASP!: THE FEEBLYS! ...HEADED RIGHT FOR FOSSIL FALLS!

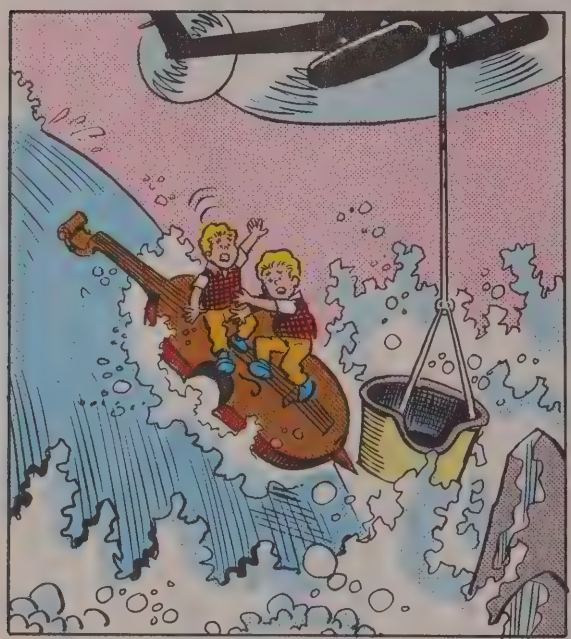
IT LOOKS HOPE-LESS!
MAYBE NOT! I'LL TRY TO REACH MR. LODGE ON MY HAND HELD!

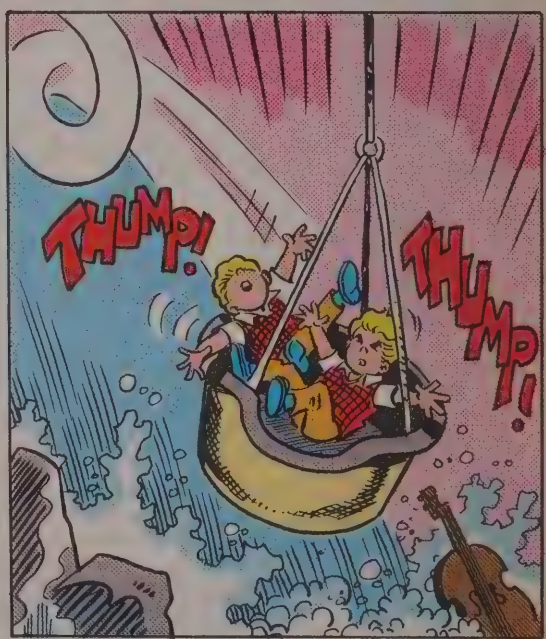
IN SECONDS...
I UNDER-STAND, DILTON, AND AM HEADING YOUR WAY!

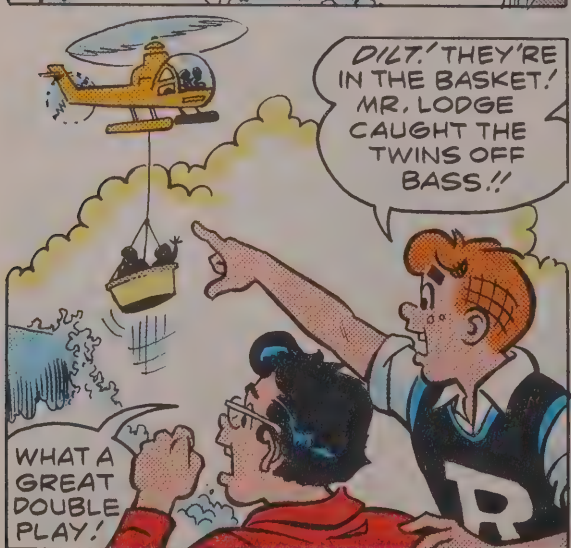

I SEE YOU AND THE FEEBLYS... THEY'RE GETTING AWFULLY CLOSE TO THOSE FALLS! LOWER THE BASKET, MIKE!

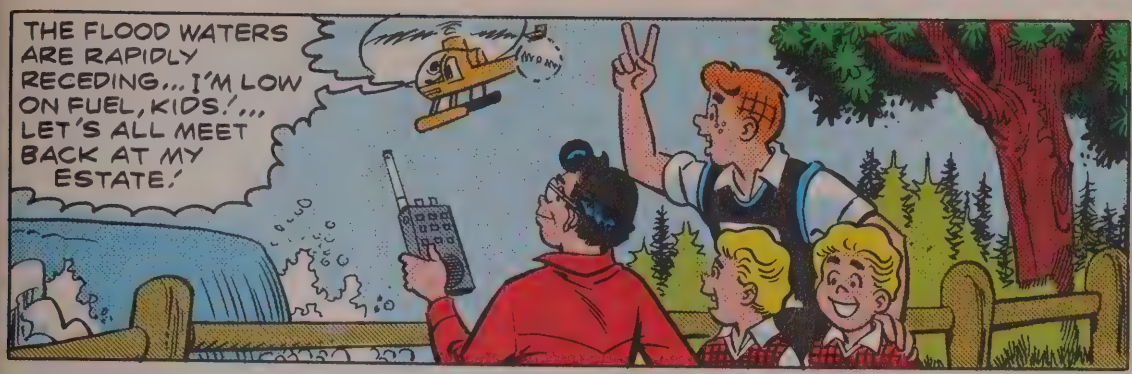

YOU'RE HEADED FOR THE FALLS!
THE LITTLE FEEBLYS... FROZEN WITH FEAR... CANNOT HEAR MR. LODGE ABOVE THE ROAR OF THE FALLS...

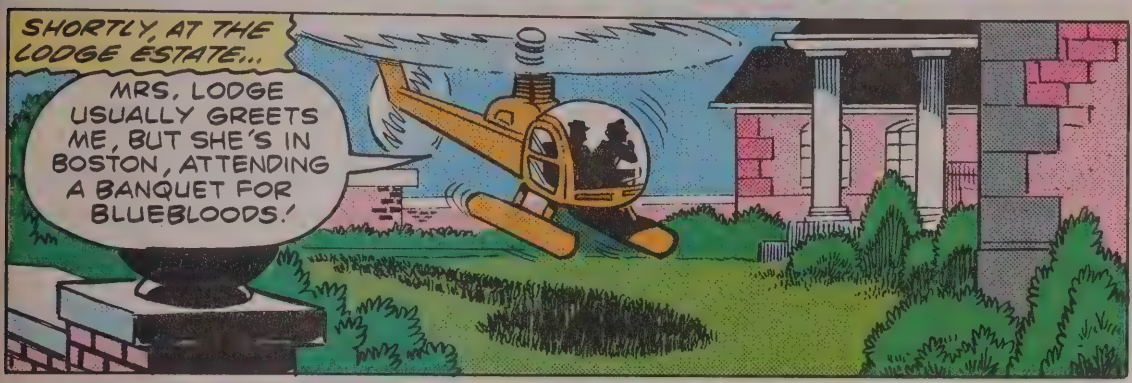
TOO LATE!
I-I CAN'T LOOK!

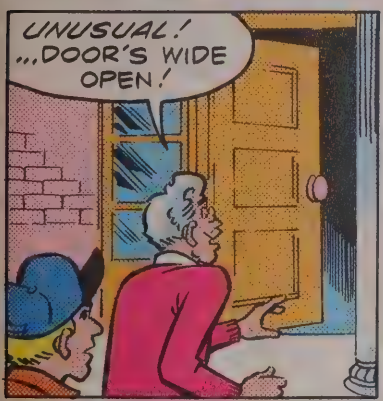



THUMP!
THUMP!


DILT! THEY'RE IN THE BASKET! MR. LODGE CAUGHT THE TWINS OFF BASS!!
WHAT A GREAT DOUBLE PLAY!

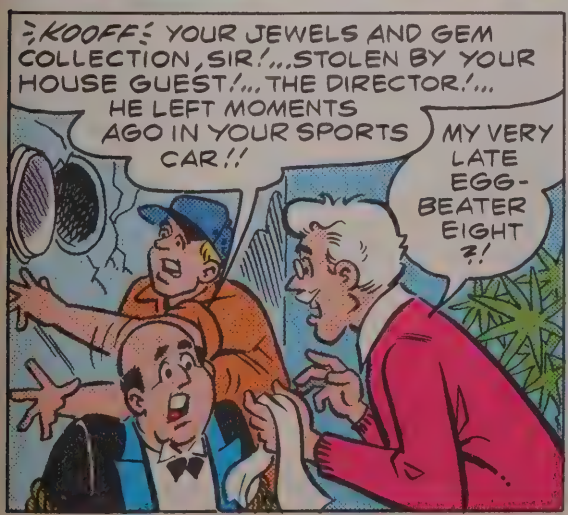

THE FLOOD WATERS ARE RAPIDLY RECEDING... I'M LOW ON FUEL, KIDS!... LET'S ALL MEET BACK AT MY ESTATE!

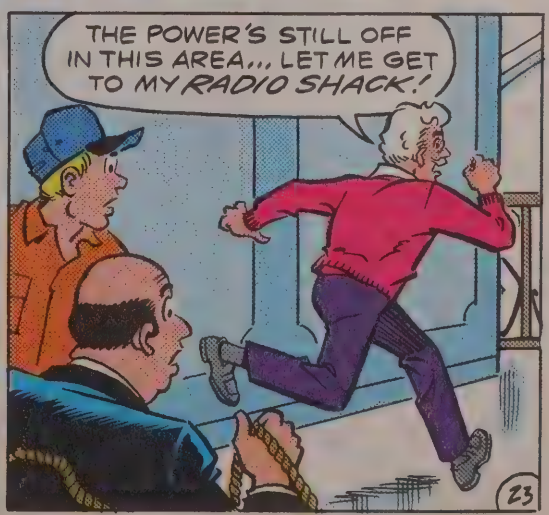

SHORTLY, AT THE LODGE ESTATE...
MRS. LODGE USUALLY GREETS ME, BUT SHE'S IN BOSTON, ATTENDING A BANQUET FOR BLUEBLOODS!


UNUSUAL! ...DOOR'S WIDE OPEN!

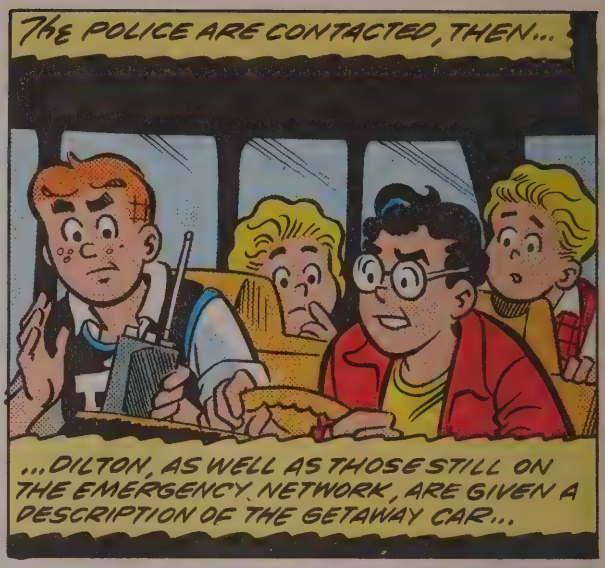
MMMF! MMFFF!

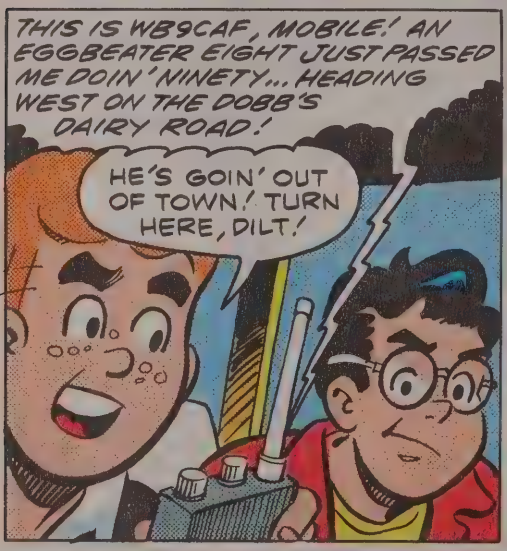
GASP! SMITHERS!

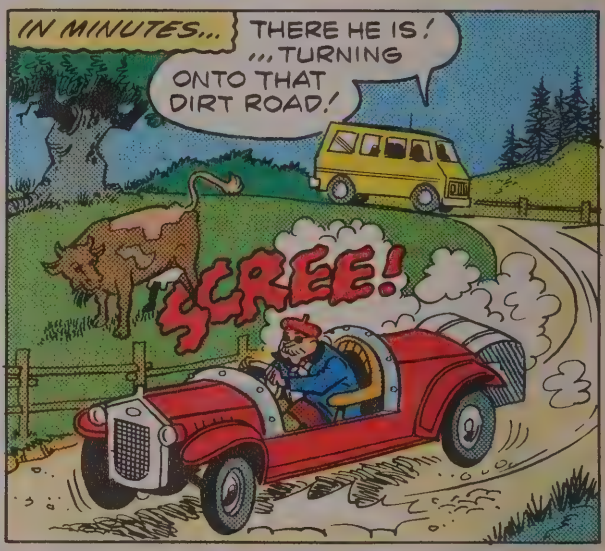

KOOFF! YOUR JEWELS AND GEM COLLECTION, SIR!...STOLEN BY YOUR HOUSE GUEST!... THE DIRECTOR!...
HE LEFT MOMENTS AGO IN YOUR SPORTS CAR!!
MY VERY LATE EGG-BEATER EIGHT?!

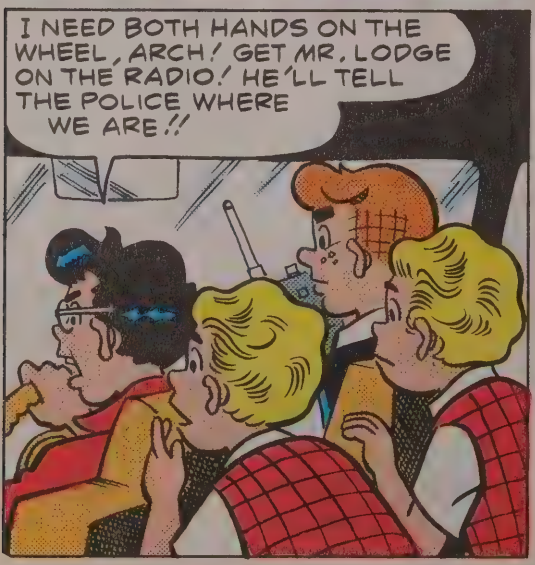

THE POWER'S STILL OFF IN THIS AREA... LET ME GET TO MY RADIO SHACK!

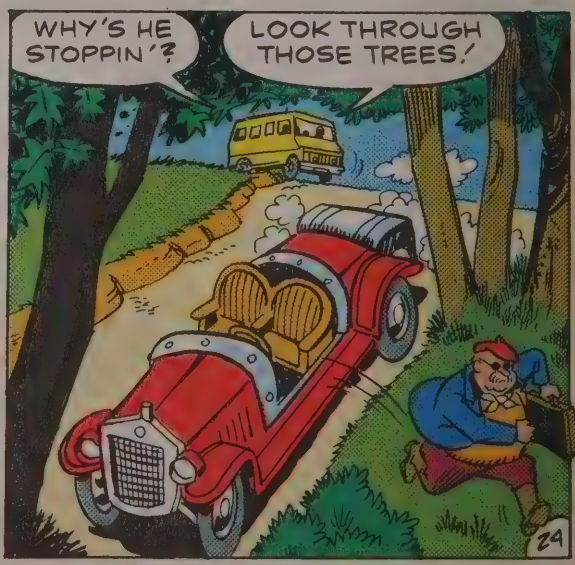
I'LL HAVE TO SWITCH TO MY EMERGENCY GENERATOR!! I'LL USE THE AUTOPATCH* TO CONTACT THE POLICE!!
*AUTOMATIC LINK BETWEEN HAM RADIO AND THE TELEPHONE SYSTEM...

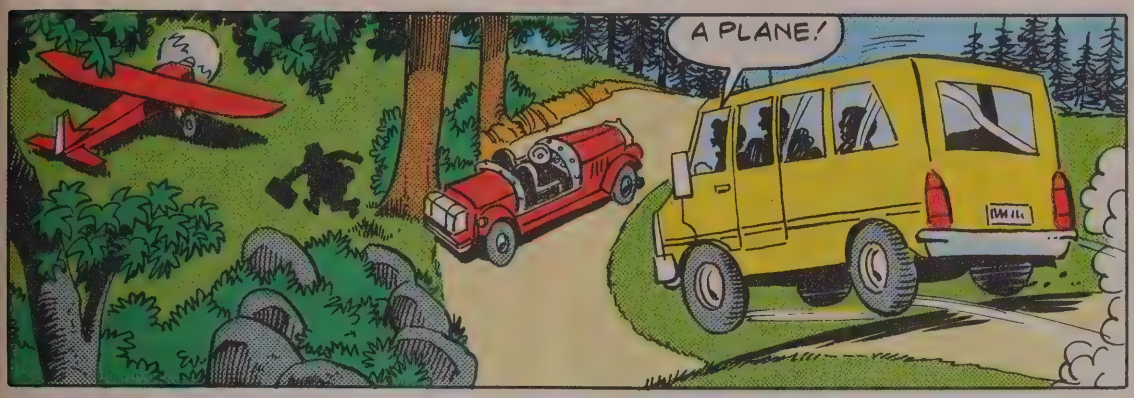

THE POLICE ARE CONTACTED, THEN...
...DILTON, AS WELL AS THOSE STILL ON THE EMERGENCY NETWORK, ARE GIVEN A DESCRIPTION OF THE GETAWAY CAR...

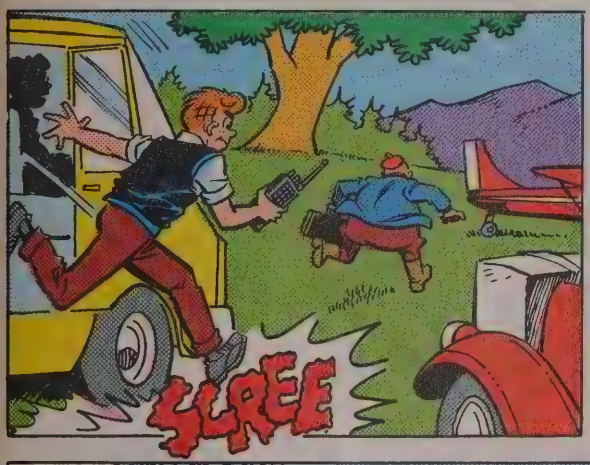

THIS IS WB9CAF, MOBILE! AN EGGBEATER EIGHT JUST PASSED ME DOIN' NINETY... HEADING WEST ON THE DOBB'S DAIRY ROAD!
HE'S GOIN' OUT OF TOWN! TURN HERE, DILT!

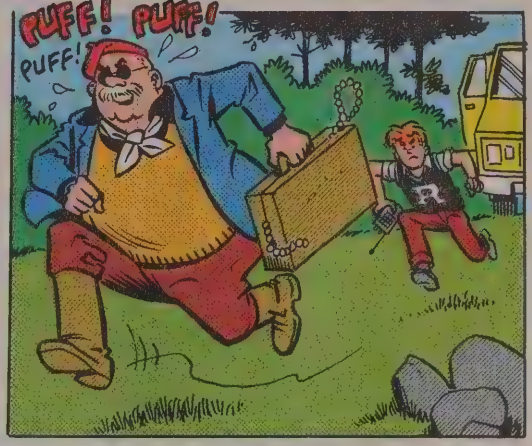

IN MINUTES...
THERE HE IS! ...TURNING ONTO THAT DIRT ROAD!
SCREE!


I NEED BOTH HANDS ON THE WHEEL, ARCH! GET MR. LODGE ON THE RADIO! HE'LL TELL THE POLICE WHERE WE ARE!!


WHY'S HE STOPPIN'?
LOOK THROUGH THOSE TREES!

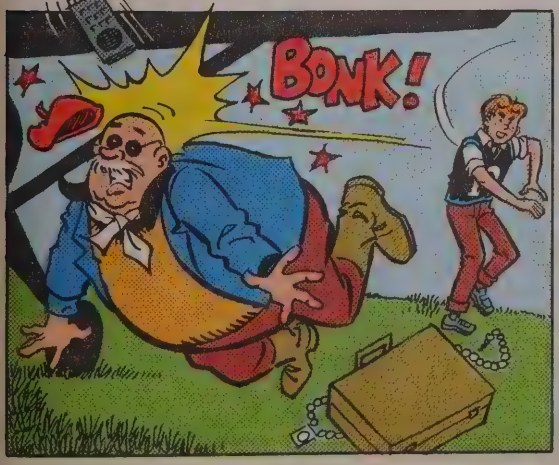

A PLANE!

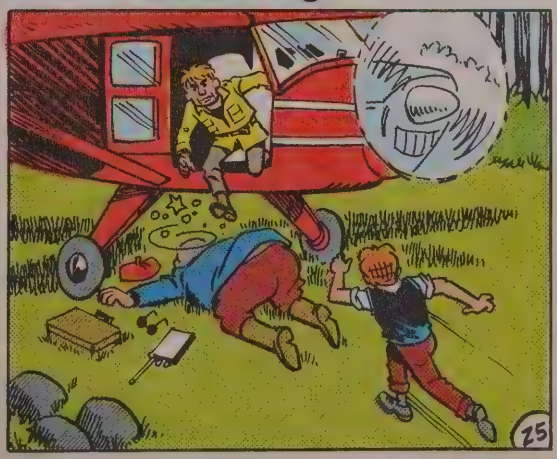

SLREE

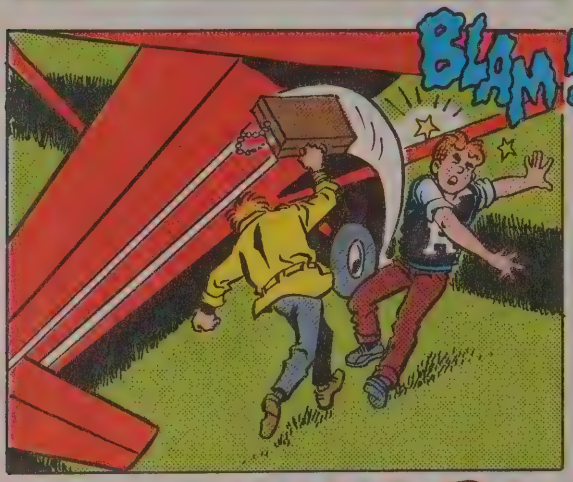

PUFF! PUFF!
PUFF!

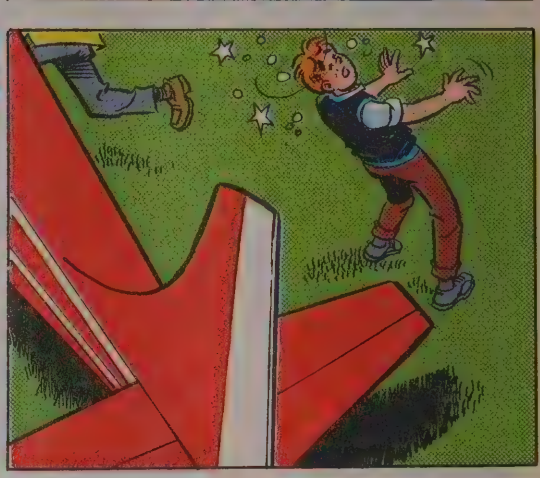
HE'S FAST FOR A FATTY !!...
I'M NOT GONNA CATCH HIM!!

BUT MAYBE THIS WILL!
SWISH

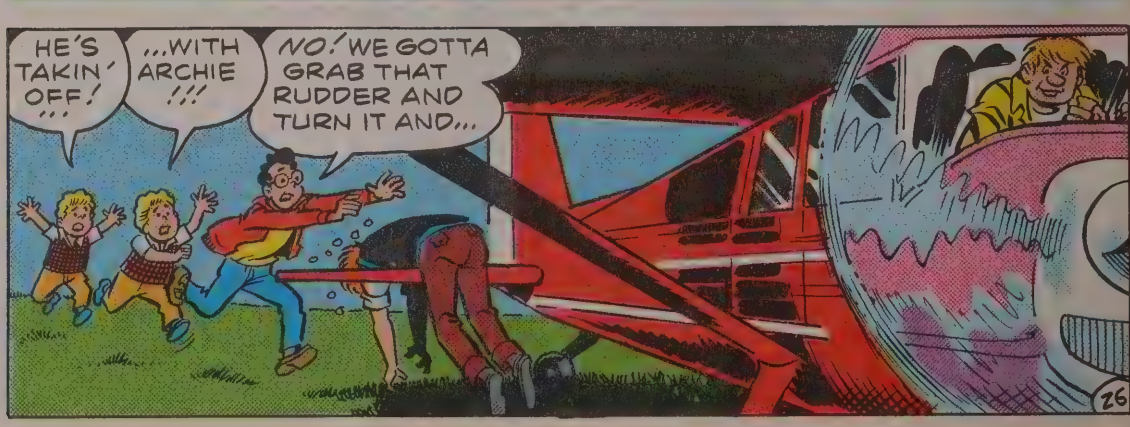

BONK!



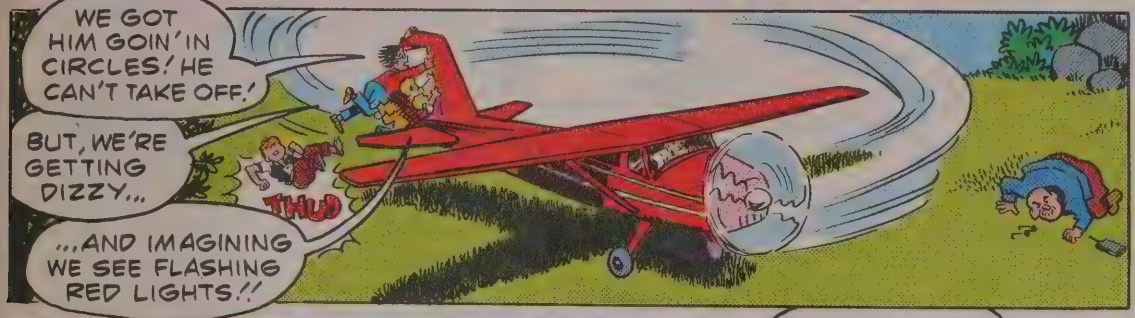

BLAM!

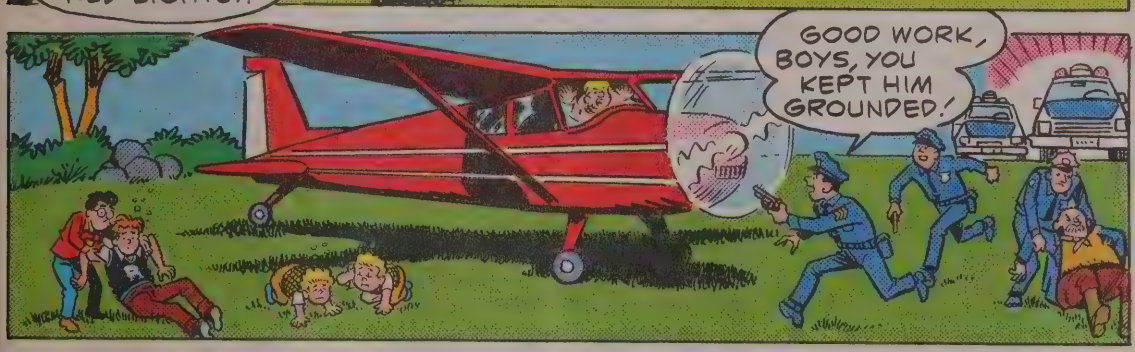


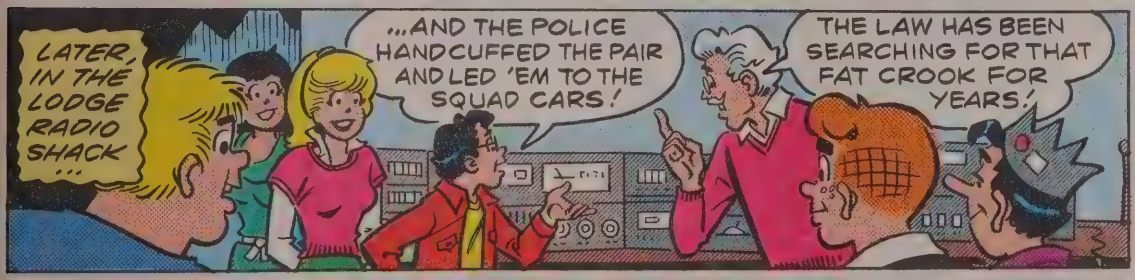
RRRRR!


HE'S TAKIN' OFF! ...
...WITH ARCHIE !!!
NO! WE GOTTA GRAB THAT RUDDER AND TURN IT AND...

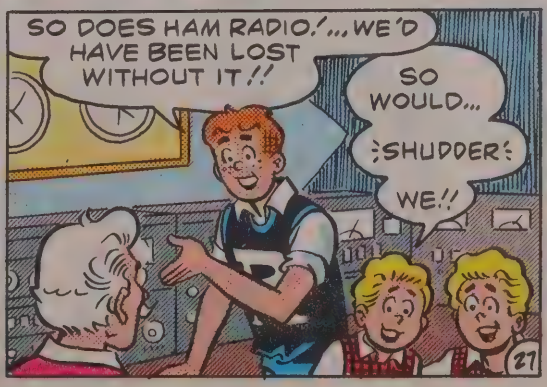
...KEEP IT TURNED!...

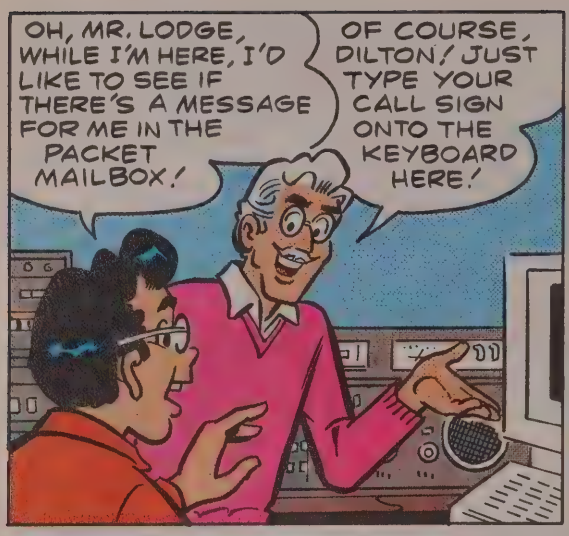

WE GOT HIM GOIN' IN CIRCLES! HE CAN'T TAKE OFF!
BUT, WE'RE GETTING DIZZY...
THUD
...AND IMAGINING WE SEE FLASHING RED LIGHTS!!

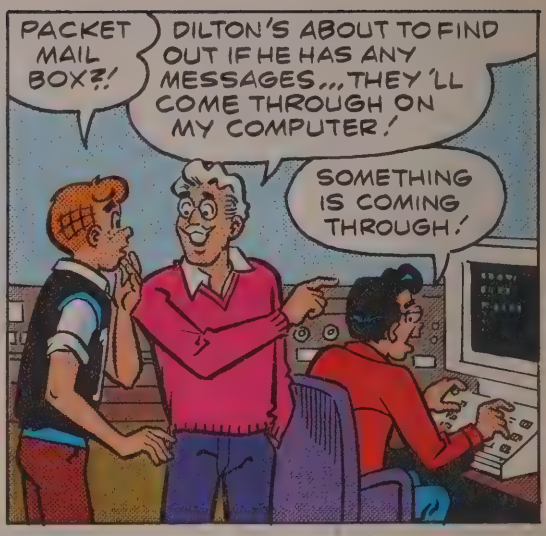

GOOD WORK, BOYS, YOU KEPT HIM GROUNDED!

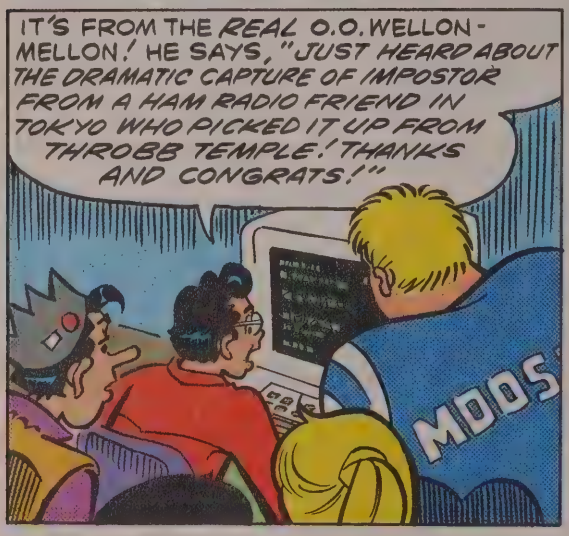

LATER, IN THE LODGE RADIO SHACK ...
...AND THE POLICE HANDCUFFED THE PAIR AND LED 'EM TO THE SQUAD CARS!
THE LAW HAS BEEN SEARCHING FOR THAT FAT CROOK FOR YEARS!

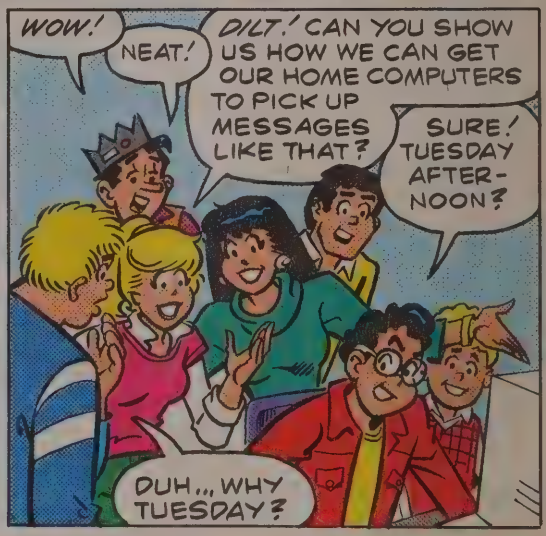
HIS REAL NAME IS MASON JARR... A NOTORIOUS JEWEL THIEF AND MASTER OF DISGUISE! YOU BOYS DESERVE A LOT OF CREDIT!

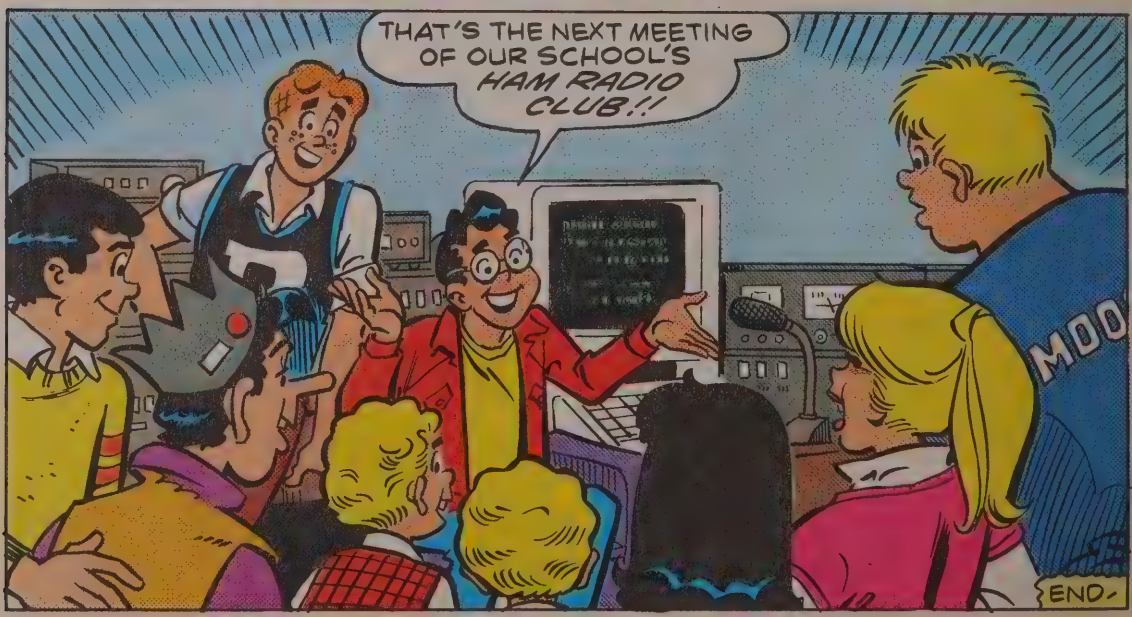

SO DOES HAM RADIO!... WE'D HAVE BEEN LOST WITHOUT IT!!
SO WOULD...
:SHUDDER:
WE!!


OH, MR. LODGE, WHILE I'M HERE, I'D LIKE TO SEE IF THERE'S A MESSAGE FOR ME IN THE PACKET MAILBOX!
OF COURSE, DILTON! JUST TYPE YOUR CALL SIGN ONTO THE KEYBOARD HERE!

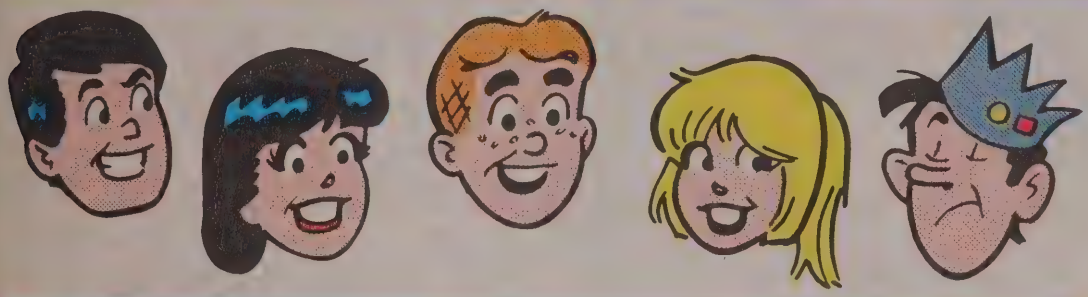

PACKET MAIL BOX?!
DILTON'S ABOUT TO FIND OUT IF HE HAS ANY MESSAGES... THEY'LL COME THROUGH ON MY COMPUTER!
SOMETHING IS COMING THROUGH!


IT'S FROM THE REAL O.O. WELLON-MELLON! HE SAYS, "JUST HEARD ABOUT THE DRAMATIC CAPTURE OF IMPOSTOR FROM A HAM RADIO FRIEND IN TOKYO WHO PICKED IT UP FROM THROBB TEMPLE! THANKS AND CONGRATS!"
MDOS


WOW!
NEAT!
DILT! CAN YOU SHOW US HOW WE CAN GET OUR HOME COMPUTERS TO PICK UP MESSAGES LIKE THAT?
SURE! TUESDAY AFTER-NOON?
DUH... WHY TUESDAY?


THAT'S THE NEXT MEETING OF OUR SCHOOL'S HAM RADIO CLUB!!
MOO
END

HAM RADIO FACTS



THE FIRST HAM was Guglielmo Marconi, the man who invented radio. He never had a license, but always considered himself a Ham at heart.

WHAT DOES HAM STAND FOR? Nothing. Hams are formally known as AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS, "amateurs" because they use their radios for fun, not for money. The word "ham" is about as old as the hobby itself and its origins are uncertain. But it's a title all amateurs wear with pride.

HAM RADIO LICENSES are issued in the U.S. by the Federal Communications Commission, a government agency (in Canada, it's the Department of Communication). You need a license to get on the air. The easiest classes of licenses to get are the Novice Class and the Technician Class. The licenses are good for ten years, and the Novice license is free. These licenses give a new Ham a taste of what Amateur Radio has to offer. Other classes of license provide bigger bites. Getting a license means studying about how radios work and some licenses require passing tests on Morse Code. Many Ham Radio clubs sponsor training courses and test sessions.

HOW MANY HAMS ARE THERE? Around the world, there are more than two million Ham Radio operators. There are about 500,000 Hams in the United States.

HOW FAR CAN HAMS TALK? Hams can talk with other Ham operators all over the world. There have even been a few Ham astronauts who have operated from space! They talked to other Hams back on Earth!

WHAT DO HAMS TALK ABOUT? Just about anything. Most Hams exchange information about their hometowns, the kind of radio equipment they're using, how old they are and whether they go to school or work at full-time jobs. Many Hams find they have things in common, and there's really no limit to what they'll talk about then.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST? While it's possible to spend thousands of dollars on radio equipment, many Hams get on the air and have a great time with used equipment that's often sold for $150 or less.

WHAT SOME OF THE WORDS MEAN...

Ham - A person licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to be an Amateur Radio Operator.

Rig - The radio equipment used by a Ham to communicate with other Hams. The basic equipment consists of a radio receiver to "listen" with, a transmitter to "talk" with, and an antenna to send a radio signal out into the air or pick it up out of the air. Nowadays, modern "rigs" often have the transmitter and the receiver in the same unit, and some even have a small antenna built in.

Ham License - The official document issued by the FCC giving permission to operate an Amateur Radio station. To get a Ham License (also called an Amateur Radio License) you must pass a test authorized by the FCC. The Novice Class exam includes a Morse Code test, but the Technician Class exam does not, and all exams have questions on the simple rules about operating a Ham station. Most people start with the easiest ones, the Novice and Technician, and as they gain more experience, they progress up the ladder to General Class, Advanced Class and then the ultimate Ham license, the Amateur Extra Class. Each higher grade of license allows you to use more amateur frequencies and to communicate with other Hams in many different ways.

Radio Shack - The name used to describe the place where a Ham keeps his radio station. In the early days of radio, a Ham often operated his radio equipment from a small shed or shack in the backyard instead of inside the house. Times have changed, and today most Hams have their radio equipment in the den, basement, attic or even tucked away in a spare closet in the house, but it's still "the shack" to a Ham.

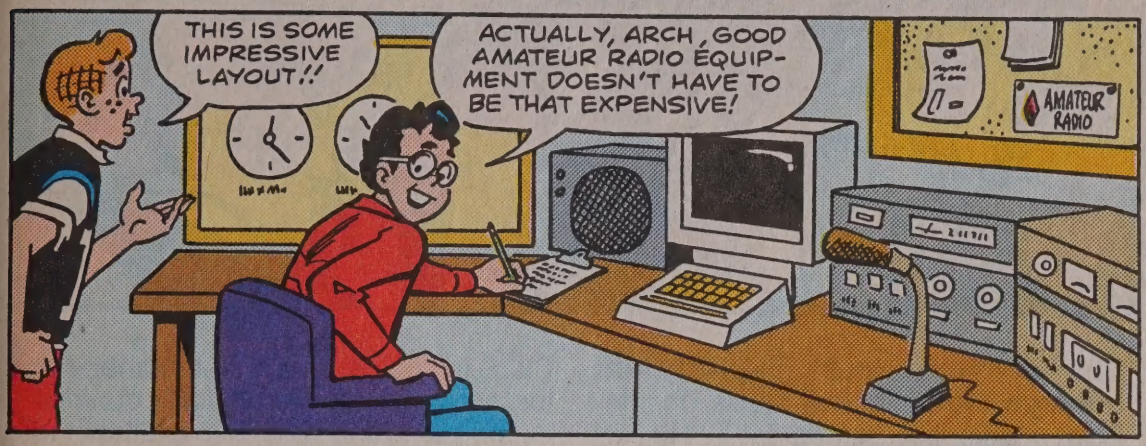
Packet - High-speed communication from one computer to another over the airwaves. This is one of the newest ways Hams use to "talk" to each other. A Packet Mailbox is a system Hams use to leave messages for each other even when the other Ham isn't around to receive the message. Just check your "mailbox" whenever you can, to see if there's any "mail" (messages) for you. Packet is the Ham's way of communicating by computer over the radio that is even more fun than talking by computer using a telephone modem.

Phone Patch - A Ham's way of connecting his Ham Radio equipment to the telephone lines. If this is done automatically, the system is called Autopatch. Using Autopatch, it's possible for a Ham to make phone calls from his car or even from a Walky-Talky as he or she is walking down the street or riding the bus. The equipment that makes this possible is usually provided by a local radio club.

Repeater - An automatic relay station that picks up a signal from your small transceiver and re-transmits it much stronger and louder from a high antenna. The idea is to let you talk over longer distances than you normally could using a small, inexpensive rig. Repeaters can even be connected together or "linked" to extend your talking range to hundreds or thousands of miles just using a hand-held transceiver.

OSCAR - Orbiting Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio. Hams around the world have built and had launched into Earth orbit dozens of communications satellites. Some of these satellites have been repeaters which are able to re-transmit Ham signals over thousands of miles, and across oceans using simple low-power equipment. The nickname OSCAR is used to refer to those Ham satellites built by Hams in non-Communist countries in Europe, North America and Asia. Russian Hams have also built and had launched numerous Ham satellites.

THE NOVICE AND TECHNICIAN LICENSES



Your first Ham Radio license is your ticket to adventure on the airwaves. You may not catch any crooks, but you will get the chance to meet interesting people all over the world...from school kids in Great Britain or New York City to farmers in Kansas or Russia. The Novice and Technician Licenses--the easiest Ham "tickets" to earn--are your first steps.

Today's Novices and Technicians may sample just about everything Ham Radio has to offer--from satellite communications and computerized "Packet Radio" to "chasing DX," hunting down rare stations in exotic countries. Plus, you have the chance to meet and talk with fellow Hams in your hometown using hand-held radios and "repeaters" to stay in touch. There's a Novice voice "radio frequency band" on 28 megahertz (MHz) giving you the chance to actually talk with people all over the world! Novice bands also offer Morse Code contacts up to a few hundred miles away on 3.5 and 7 MHz, and up to several thousand miles away on 21 and 28 MHz. If you want to talk by computer or hook up to a computer "bulletin board," there's also plenty of packet radio activity to be found on bands that both Novices and Technicians can use.

Technicians may talk on the 144, 222 and 440 MHz bands where repeaters can extend the range of a low-powered hand-held radio to 50 or 60 miles or more. (Novices may talk on the 222 MHz band, too.) These bands are also great places to meet local Hams who can introduce you to the never-ending variety of Ham Radio and help you work toward a higher class license. Many a lifelong friend has been made on Ham Radio repeaters.

There's a huge chunk of frequencies available to Novices and Technicians at 1.2 gigahertz--a funny word with a big future. The Novice and Technician band here, and the Technician 440 and 902 MHz bands include a couple of Amateur TV channels (Yes, you can send your own TV signals!) Technicians can also talk on the popular 50 MHz band, on 902 MHz and a number of other bands that give you the chance to be part of some of Ham Radio's newest developments. (What are they? We don't know. They haven't happened yet!)

The **Novice and Technician Licenses** are the first steps on the Ham Radio license "ladder." Higher classes of license are a little harder to earn, but each brings with it new privileges and opportunities. Here's how the "ladder" works:

The **Novice License:** Receive Morse Code at five words per minute (wpm) and pass a 30-question written test on Ham Radio rules, operating practices and basic electronics.

The **Technician License:** Just a written test that covers electronics and operating practices at frequencies above "short wave," where you'll get full amateur privileges, including permission to operate on the popular "two-meter" repeaters. By passing the same code test as for a Novice license you get Novice privileges, too.

The **General Class License:** Gives you some of everything, including voice privileges on all of the "shortwave" Ham bands for round-the-world communications. You have to know Morse Code at 13 words per minute and pass another written test to make sure you understand your new privileges.

The **Advanced Class License:** Some people say this test is the toughest of all--50 questions on pretty complicated electronics (no code test if you're already a General). But the Advanced Class license puts you a step ahead of the crowd. And it practically doubles the shortwave frequencies available to you for voice contacts, giving you a less crowded area for chatting with friends around the world--or for making new friends.

The **Amateur Extra Class License:** This is the top rung on Ham Radio's licensing ladder. The Extra Class license gives you all operating privileges on all amateur frequencies, along with certain frequencies reserved just for you and your fellow Extras. And if you're 18 or older, it qualifies you to give exams for all classes of Ham Radio licenses. Naturally, it takes a lot of work to earn this license--a 20 word per minute Code test and yet another written exam.

These higher license classes can take quite a bit of time and study to earn, but don't worry--all amateur licenses--from Novice to Extra--are issued for ten years, and may be renewed. And the Novice and Technician licenses give you the all-important first steps up the ladder.

All in all, there's a new world of Amateur Radio out there for today's Novices and Technicians. To find out more, join the Archie Radio Club (use the tear-out card)--or ask your teacher or group leader to request a copy of the Ham Radio video, "The New World of Amateur Radio" from ARRL.

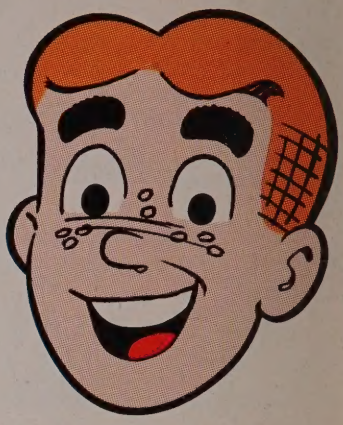
HAM WORD SEARCH!

There are 38 common Ham words hidden in the puzzle below. Can you find them all?

F T I S Y A R E C E I V E R A E O P H U P C A X D
C R A E A G E L S Q U I F O D R A C O D A E V O S
C A N R E T T I M S N A R T I O T O K I C P A R E
A N R O F R A N S L Y K N A S A V R E H K S U B N
L S E T V N P O S C A R U T P E O I P T E E R F O
M C A A L I B Y E A M I N O E W E A C I T R H U H
A E M R A M C Q U R E A T R T N R N I A M I A Q P
M I T E C E O E Q D N U F E H G N E M I A R M S D
A V E N A N T P T E A Q N X E N I A O M I P P I A
T E L E G R A P H K E Y E L A W N E C I L E S G E
E R A G I R A F F E C L E T M O I D A R B C I N H
U E C Y A R E R O N E T T E D I T A O B O D N A H
R O Z C T E E P E K H A M S H A C K L T X E G L A
R T A N R T P G B E H C T A P E N O H P S K I S N
A E M E S A R O M E O U E D A R O E E S N E S L D
D K E G S E S A E L U R S T E M W D R E A Y L R Y
I C N R M P H A N D H E L D U N I T I N L A L M T
O A W E W E R E A D D R A O B T I U C R I C A P A
A P P M O R S E C O D E K B I U W A E S N E C I L
H A O E Q E H T U O S R C O S Q O X R L A O C R K
C O M P U T E R C M O C N N O S S O L I D C O P Y

Amateur
Amateur Radio
Antenna
Auto Patch
Callsign
CB Radio
Circuit Board
Computer
DX
DXpedition
Emergency Generator
Emergency Network
FCC
Ham
Ham Shack
Hand Held Unit
Handy Talky
Headphones
Key
License
Morse Code
Novice
Oscar
Packet
Packet Mail Box
Phone Patch
Q Signals
QSL Card
QSO
Receiver
Repeater
Rig
Rotator
Solid Copy
Telegraph
Telegraph Key
Transceiver
Transmitter

HAM RADIO'S "SECRET" CODE!



Morse code is used by many Hams. It's Ham Radio's "secret" language. The Morse Code is easy to learn. The best way to learn it is by the way it sounds. For example, think of the letter A as the sound "di-dah," made when you say "dit" and "dah" together quickly.

Computer games and audio cassettes are available to help you learn Morse Code, but if you want to start by teaching yourself some letters--maybe your own name--here's the whole Morse Code. Now you're in on the secret!

A	di-dah	N	dah-dit
B	dah-di-di-dit	O	dah-dah-dah
C	dah-di-dah-dit	P	di-dah-dah-dit
D	dah-di-dit	Q	dah-dah-di-dah
E	dit	R	di-dah-dit
F	di-di-dah-dit	S	di-di-dit
G	dah-dah-dit	T	dah
H	di-di-di-dit	U	di-di-dah
I	di-dit	V	di-di-di-dah
J	di-dah-dah-dah	W	di-dah-dah
K	dah-di-dah	X	dah-di-di-dah
L	di-dah-di-dit	Y	dah-di-dah-dah
M	dah-dah	Z	dah-dah-di-dit
1	di-dah-dah-dah-dah	6	dah-di-di-di-dit
2	di-di-dah-dah-dah	7	dah-dah-di-di-dit
3	di-di-di-dah-dah	8	dah-dah-dah-di-dit
4	di-di-di-di-dah	9	dah-dah-dah-dah-dit
5	di-di-di-di-dit	0	dah-dah-dah-dah-dah

Period (.) di-dah-di-dah-di-dah
Question Mark (?) di-di-dah-dah-di-dit